IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPSOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPP WESTERN DIVISION

BILLIE A. AULD AND ALL PLAINTIFFS LISTED ON

ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A"

V.

FEB 1 3 2004 **PLAINTIFFS**

CIVIL ACTION NO.

5:041155 BrS4

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA; HARVEY ADCOCK; F. ALLEGREZZA; EDWARD C. BLAND; L. BOONE; M. R. BOONE; L. BOONE, JR.; TIMMY BORGOGNONI; RANDY BRITT; L. BROWN; JANICE BULTON; L. H. BUROI; BOBBY BYRNES; BARBARA COOPER; J. K. M. CRAIG; PAUL R. CUTTING; HENRY DAVIS; TERRY W. DAVIS; CLINTON DICKERSON; HANK FAVAROTH; JOHN FELTON; HOWARD FOREMAN; HOWARD FULGHAM; S. GARNARD; MARVIN GIBBS; JAMES GRAY; JOHN HAND; JOHN HARRINGTON; ARNOLD **HENDERSON; E. JACKSON; GREGORY** JACKSON; SHIRLEY JENRETTE; BUBBA JOHNSON; LES KING; OLIVER KING; OLEVAR S. KING; CRAIG KIRBY; DAVIS LABELL; GREGG LANE; J. MALLY; IVY MANEY; MAYO MANGUM; IVY MAUERY; JAMES MAYS; RALPH G. MAYS; O. W. MCRAE; IVY MEMIY; JOHN G. MIMBS; WALTER MONTGOMERY; WILLIAM MONTGOMERY; PAUL NORRELL; LARRY O'CONNER; LAWRENCE M. PHILLIPS; A. PREWITT; COCHRAN CURTIS SMITH; LESLIE SMITH; LISA THOMPSON; PAUL **UPTON; GILBERT WALDEN; B. WALK;** HAROLD WALLEY; BEN WALTMAN; JAMES WATSON; PAUL WATSON; SAM WHITAKE; PENNY WOMBLE; and JOHN DOE 1-500, who are those persons, firms, corporations, associations, proprietorships, or other entities whose names and identities are otherwise unknown at this time by the Plaintiffs, but who will be added by amendment when ascertained and who participated in the rating,

developing, selling, servicing, handling, collection on and/or canceling of certain insurance policies of Plaintiffs and/or who participated in acts or omissions that caused damage to policies of Plaintiffs and/or who took and/or converted for their own uses money from Plaintiffs' policies and/or who engaged in a conspiracy or participated in acts or omissions which involved said policies and/or who participated in a cover-up or conspiracy of silence to withhold from the Plaintiffs information about the Plaintiffs' policies and including but not limited to the different and discriminatory rates being charged Plaintiffs and others because of their race, and the other products that were more beneficial and reasonable in pricing which could have been sold to Plaintiffs but was not

DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF REMOVAL AND STATEMENT OF FACTS, AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332, 1441, and 1446, Defendants Life Insurance Company of Georgia ("Life of Georgia"), Paul Norrell ("Norrell"), Randy Britt ("Britt"), Walter Montgomery ("Montgomery") and Paul Upton ("Upton") (collectively, Defendants)¹ hereby submit their Notice of Removal, and remove this action from the Circuit Court of Adams County, Mississippi to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Western Division. The facts and authorities supporting this Notice of Removal are set forth in detail below.

¹To Defendants' knowledge, none of the other Defendants have been served at this time. In removing, Defendants Life of Georgia, Norrell, Britt, Montgomery and Upton expressly reserve any objections as to the sufficiency of service of process on them.

I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs brought this action in a forum that is inappropriate for the subject matter of this case in an improper effort to multiply proceedings, maximize the inconvenience and prejudice to Defendants, and force Defendants into a settlement posture. By artfully dressing up federal claims in the clothing of purported state law causes of action, by misstating the damages they seek, and by rounding up individuals to name as defendants in this case in an effort to destroy diversity jurisdiction, Plaintiffs have attempted to deprive Defendants of the federal forum to which they are entitled – the only forum in which it is appropriate to litigate this case.

Plaintiffs are well aware that a federal Multidistrict Litigation proceeding has been established in the Eastern District of Louisiana (the "MDL Court") to address claims that are identical or virtually identical to those in this case. Ultimately, this case should be transferred to the MDL Court (as Defendants promptly will request) because litigation of these claims in that more appropriate forum will conserve judicial resources. Accordingly, this removal not only will protect Defendants' right to be heard in federal court, but also will result in a more efficient and equitable resolution of the claims of thousands of individuals who have asserted identical or virtually identical claims against Life of Georgia and other life insurance companies.

This Court has subject matter jurisdiction in this case. Despite Plaintiffs' pasting of state law labels on their claims and their purported disclaimer of federal claims (see Complaint, Preamble), Plaintiffs clearly assert claims of race discrimination that can be pursued only under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 or 1982, if at all. Because Plaintiffs' Complaint necessarily raises a substantial federal question, this Court has original federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and it

can exercise supplemental pendent jurisdiction over any arguably viable state claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

This Court also has diversity jurisdiction. Plaintiffs also have fraudulently joined the non-diverse Individual Defendants. There is therefore complete diversity between the proper Plaintiffs and Life of Georgia.² Because the true amount in controversy in this case exceeds \$75,000, diversity jurisdiction is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

II. PERTINENT FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On or about January 5, 2004, Plaintiffs filed a Complaint against Life of Georgia, and Individual Defendants Norrell, Britt, Montgomery and Upton, as well as 66 other Individual Defendants who have not yet been served: Harvey Adcock; F. Allegrezza; Edward C. Bland; L. Boone; M. R. Boone; L. Boone, Jr.; Timmy Borgognoni; L. Brown; Janice Bulton; L. H. Buroi; Bobby Byrnes; Barbara Cooper; J. K. M. Craig; Paul R. Cutting; Henry Davis; Terry W. Davis; Clinton Dickerson; Hank Favaroth; John Felton; Howard Foreman; Howard Fulgham; S. Garnard; Marvin Gibbs; James Gray; John Hand; John Harrington; Arnold Henderson; E. Jackson; Gregory Jackson; Shirley Jenrette; Bubba Johnson; Les King; Oliver King; Olevar S. King; Craig Kirby; Davis Labell; Gregg Lane; J. Mally; Ivy Maney; Mayo Mangum; Ivy Mauery; James Mays; Ralph G. Mays; O. W. Mcrae; Ivy Memiy; John G. Mimbs; William Montgomery; Larry O'conner; Lawrence M. Phillips; A. Prewitt; Cochran Price; Maxine Salley; Charles Smith; Clide Smith;

²A December 30, 2002 decision of a Mississippi federal court dealt with many of the misjoinder and fraudulent joinder issues raised in this case. See Coleman v. Conseco, Inc., 238 F. Supp. 2d 804 (S.D. Miss. 2002). In that case, Judge Barbour found that non-diverse defendants were fraudulently joined, and non-diverse plaintiffs were "fraudulently misjoined." The Court disregarded the citizenship of both, held that diversity jurisdiction was proper, and denied the plaintiffs' motion to remand. <u>Id.</u> at 819.

³Plaintiffs' Complaint does not even allege service information for the majority of the Individual Defendants; it therefore appears Plaintiffs have no intent of ever serving these Individual Defendants – another indication of the fraudulent nature of their joinder.

Clyde W. Smith; Curtis Smith; Leslie Smith; Lisa Thompson; Gilbert Walden; B. Walk; Harold Walley; Ben Waltman; James Watson; Paul Watson; Sam Whitake; Penny Womble (the "Individual Defendants") and John Does 1 through 500 in the Circuit Court of Adams County, Mississippi. Life of Georgia received a copy of the Summons and Complaint via certified mail on or about January 20, 2004. Norrell, Britt, Montgomery and Upton also received copies of the Summons and Complaint, via certified mail, on or about January 17, 2004. A true and correct copy of all papers filed by Plaintiffs in the Circuit Court of Adams County in this action is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

The Southern District of Mississippi, Western Division, is the Court embracing the place where Plaintiffs filed their state court action. Therefore, venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a)-(c) and 1443. Further, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), a copy of this Notice of Removal is being served on the Clerk for the Circuit Court of Adams County, Mississippi, and on Plaintiffs' counsel, along with a Notice to State Court of Removal (copy attached hereto as Exhibit "B").

The gravamen of Plaintiffs' Complaint is that Life of Georgia committed illegal race discrimination in making contracts by charging higher premiums for life insurance to African-American customers than to Caucasian customers. Notwithstanding the purported disclaimers contained in its Preamble, the Complaint consists of a lengthy narrative alleging an elaborate scheme of intentional race discrimination that Life of Georgia has allegedly perpetrated (Complaint, ¶¶ 77-93). The claimed basis for joining the Individual Defendants is that they carried out Life of Georgia's alleged scheme of race discrimination as part of their jobs as agents for Life of Georgia (Complaint, ¶¶ 2, 90). In the Complaint's actual counts, Plaintiffs characterize this alleged discrimination as the following purported causes of action: (1) fraudulent misrepresentation;

(2) reckless misrepresentation; (3) innocent misrepresentation; (4) fraudulent concealment and suppression; and (5) "Discrimination Under Mississippi Law" (Complaint, ¶¶ 94-114).⁴

Life of Georgia is a Georgia corporation with its principal place of business in Georgia (Complaint, ¶ 2). The Complaint lists as Plaintiffs 121 individuals who allegedly have either a past or present ownership interest in a Life of Georgia policy (Id., ¶ 79, Table A). Several Plaintiffs are listed as having Mississippi addresses; none are identified as residents of Georgia (Id., Table A). The Complaint further lists as Defendants 70 individuals (as well as John Doe Defendants 1 through 500) who are alleged to have "sold and issued" Plaintiffs insurance policies (Id., Preamble, ¶¶ 4-73). The Complaint alleges Mississippi residency for the Individual Defendants. However, Life of Georgia submits that none of these individuals is a proper party in this action, because these individuals were fraudulently joined solely in an attempt to destroy diversity jurisdiction. For example, the Complaint does not allege any specific conduct attributable to any specific agent, but instead alleges a vast scheme of unlawful race discrimination perpetrated by Life of Georgia through unnamed employees and agents. There is not one single allegation of unlawful conduct committed by any of the Individual Defendants specifically. In fact, the Complaint does not even allege any of the Individual Defendants sued are agents Plaintiffs can identify as being involved in selling and/or servicing the policies in question. None of the Individual Defendants are identified on Table A (or anywhere else) as having sold a particular policy, let alone having committed a specific

⁴The Complaint's Preamble alleges that the Complaint is for "fraud and fraudulent inducement, for breach of the duties of good faith and fair dealing, for tortious breach of contract, for breach of fiduciary duty, for assumpsit or money had and received, unjust enrichment and imposition and/or gross negligence, for violation of Miss. Code Ann [sic] § 83-7-3 . . . and for violation of the Mississippi Consumer Protection Action . . . and for conversion" However, the Complaint actually includes only the five Counts described above.

wrongful act against any of the Plaintiffs. As such, the only possible reason for them being named as Defendants is to destroy diversity.

Additionally, because of the severe nature of Plaintiffs' allegations and the types of relief they seek, the amount in controversy in this case exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, notwithstanding Plaintiffs' insincere claims to the contrary (see Complaint, ¶ 75). Defendants remove this action to this Court based on federal question and diversity grounds, because Plaintiffs' Complaint presents claims that are federal in nature and because Life of Georgia is the only proper defendant in this action (if at all) and the true amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional minimum of \$75,000.

III. DISCUSSION AND RELEVANT AUTHORITIES

A. Federal Question Jurisdiction

28 U.S.C. § 1331 confers original jurisdiction on the federal District Courts "of all civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws, or treatises of the United States." The statutory "arising under" language has been construed to mean "[a] suit arises under the law that creates the cause of action" – or a suit that could not exist but for the rights created by a particular federal law. American Well Works v. Layne & Bowler Co., 241 U.S. 257, 260 (1916). The facts that form the basis of Plaintiffs' claims in this lawsuit can only be pursued under federal law, specifically 42 U.S.C. § 1981 or § 1982.

1. Plaintiffs' Claims of Unlawful Race Discrimination in the Making of Contracts Raise a Substantial Federal Question.

To succeed on any of their claims, Plaintiffs must, as a preliminary matter, demonstrate racially discriminatory pricing of insurance premiums. Even a cursory review of Plaintiffs'

Complaint reflects that all of their claims are based on the factual allegation of race discrimination.

The following excerpts are but a few examples of the nature of Plaintiffs' allegations:

- "Plaintiffs' selection of product(s) to be purchased was internally [sic] limited by the Defendants because of the Plaintiffs' race and color . . . " Complaint, ¶ 81(b).
- "... the premiums were... higher than what would have been paid for comparable coverage by Caucasian Americans..." Id., ¶81(c).
- "Defendants additionally based higher premiums for Blacks on 'socio-economic' factors and underwriting where premiums were raised based purportedly on occupation, social traits and living conditions all the while being disguised, but actually being racial discrimination . . ." <u>Id.</u>, ¶ 81(e).

In this case, there can be no dispute that unlawful race discrimination in the making of the insurance contracts at issue is the sole substance of Plaintiffs' claims. Indeed, Count V of Plaintiffs' Complaint is for "race discrimination." Without the allegation that Life of Georgia committed unlawful race discrimination in pricing its insurance contracts, there can be no "fraud," misrepresentation, or omission upon which Plaintiffs can base their purported fraud-type claims contained in Counts I through IV of their Complaint. In short, without the claims of illegal race discrimination, Plaintiffs' non-discrimination claims are reduced to theoretical causes of action left in search of supporting facts. As such, Plaintiffs' only claim is their "discrimination" claim. Unlawful race discrimination in making contracts unquestionably is not only central to all of Plaintiffs' claims, it is the essential aspect of those claims.

Mississippi state law does not, however, provide a cause of action for allegations of unlawful race discrimination in making contracts. See Davis v. Vesta Fire Ins. Corp., 1996 WL 774530, *1, No. CIV. A. 3:96-CV-549LN (S.D. Miss. Aug. 29, 1996) ("Nor is there any other cause of action cognizable under Mississippi law for discrimination based on race or any other protected class"); Jackson v. Mississippi Farm Bureau Mut. Ins. Co., 947 F. Supp. 252, 255 (S.D. Miss. 1996).

Mississippi does not have a civil rights statute comparable to 42 U.S.C. § 1981 or § 1982. Plaintiffs' claims must arise, if at all, under federal law – no other source for the claims is available.

For jurisdictional purposes, it is of no consequence that Plaintiffs' allegations of unlawful race discrimination in making contracts are not presented as a federal cause of action. See Jackson, supra at 256-57 ("Plaintiffs' characterization of their claims as arising solely under state law (or their refusal to correctly denominate the claim as federal) is not controlling."). Federal jurisdiction is invoked even where a federal question is hidden by plaintiffs' "artful pleading" or purported reliance on state claims in the Complaint. See id. at 255 ("[p]laintiffs may not avoid federal jurisdiction simply by failing to denominate as federal what is in substance a federal claim, i.e., by artful pleading") (citation omitted). See also Carpenter v. Wichita Falls Indep. Sch. Dist., 44 F.3d 362, 366 (5th Cir. 1995) ("where the plaintiff necessarily has available no legitimate or viable state cause of action, but only a federal claim, he may not avoid removal by artfully casting his federal suit as one arising exclusively under state law"). Nor does it matter that Plaintiffs expressly disavow any federal claims. Jackson, 947 F. Supp. at 256 ("[p]laintiff[s] may not avoid federal jurisdiction by 'stipulating' on the one hand that they are not pursuing a federal cause of action while at the same time continuing to assert what the court has concluded is a federal claim."). Rather, the test for federal question jurisdiction is whether Plaintiffs' allegation of unlawful race discrimination in making contracts is a necessary or essential component of the claims they assert. See Carpenter, 44 F.3d at 366; Medina v. Ramsey Steel Co., Inc., 238 F.3d 674, 690 (5th Cir. 2001).

Because illegal race discrimination is an essential and necessary element of each cause of action alleged in their Complaint, Plaintiffs' claims are cognizable, if at all, only under federal law.

See Jackson, 947 F. Supp. at 255 ("[a] cause of action to which a charge of race discrimination is

central, or essential, would necessarily be federal since Mississippi . . . has not otherwise provided for or recognized a cause of action for race or other types of class-based discrimination."). By strategically omitting any mention of federal law, Plaintiffs are trying to avoid federal jurisdiction and deprive Defendants of their right to be heard in federal court. Plaintiffs' tactics notwithstanding, the Complaint actually raises a federal question, specifically a race discrimination claim under 42 U.S.C. §§ 1981 and 1982. Moreover, even if any of Plaintiffs' "state law" claims were viable as pleaded (which they are not), this Court should exercise supplemental jurisdiction over them because they are part of the same "case or controversy" as Plaintiffs' federal claims. 28 U.S.C. § 1367. Accordingly, jurisdiction properly lies in this Court.⁵

2. The Artful Pleading Doctrine Applies to this Case.

A District Court generally determines whether it has jurisdiction under section 1331 by looking to the plaintiff's "well-pleaded complaint" and deciding whether a federal question is raised on the face of the complaint, as opposed to being embedded in a defense or a counterclaim. See Franchise Tax Bd., 463 U.S. 1, 10 (1983). Under the "artful pleading" doctrine, however, a District Court does not simply accept a plaintiff's characterization of his or her claims, but rather "should inspect the complaint carefully to determine whether a federal claim is necessarily presented, even if the plaintiff has couched his pleading exclusively in terms of state law." In re Carter, 618 F.2d 1093, 1101 (5th Cir. 1980). The artful pleading doctrine "does not convert legitimate state claims into federal ones, but rather reveals the suit's necessary federal character." See Carpenter, 44 F.3d at 367 (internal citation omitted). "The artful pleading doctrine recognizes that the characterization

⁵As noted above, Plaintiffs are aware that numerous claims which are identical or virtually identical to those asserted in this case are currently pending in the MDL Court. See In re Life Ins. Co. of Georgia Industrial Life Ins. Litig., MDL No. 1390. The MDL Court has properly found that such claims are essentially federal in nature. Currently, the MDL Court has taken jurisdiction in over 80 actions.

of a federal claim as a state claim will not in all cases prohibit removal when the plaintiff has no state claim at all. . . ." See id. Such is the case here.

The most recent Fifth Circuit decision on this issue reaffirms the principle that federal question jurisdiction exists where a plaintiff asserts claims that necessarily rely upon federal law, even if the plaintiff has couched his pleading exclusively in terms of state law. See Medina v. Ramsey Steel Co., Inc., 238 F.3d 674, 680 (5th Cir. 2001). In Medina, the plaintiff filed suit claiming age discrimination but asserting claims only under Texas state law. The defendant removed after the plaintiff amended the complaint to seek remedies (back pay and liquidated damages) provided only by federal law. The District Court refused to remand the case, and the Fifth Circuit affirmed, stating that removal is proper when "a federal right is an essential element of the plaintiffs' cause of action." Id. Because the rights the Medina plaintiff sought to assert in the amended complaint were available only under federal law, and not under the state law under which he claimed to sue, a federal right was an essential element of his case. Id.

Similarly, in this case, Plaintiffs may not recover for allegedly unlawful race-based discrimination in the making of insurance contracts. Private remedies for such alleged offenses are available only under federal law. Plaintiffs' claims of race discrimination, therefore, necessarily

⁶The "complete preemption" rule does not apply in this case because it is Plaintiffs' Complaint that presents a federal question, not Defendants' responsive pleadings. See Waste Control Specialists v. Envirocare of Texas, 199 F.3d 781 (5th Cir. 2000); Rivet v. Regions Bank, 522 U.S. 470 (1998). When a defendant removes an action on federal question grounds simply because a federal law is raised as a defense, the defendant must show that the federal law used as a defense completely preempts state law. See Terrebonne Homecare, Inc. v. SMA Health Plan, Inc., 271 F.3d 186 (5th Cir. 2001); A.O. Smith Corp. v. The American Alternative Ins. Corp., No. 99-3347, 2000 WL 28177 (E.D. La. Jan. 12, 2000). In this case, however, Defendants are not asserting federal law as a defense, but instead contend that Plaintiffs' Complaint raises a substantial federal question on its face. Waste Control and Rivet, therefore, do not apply.

raise a substantial question of federal law that Defendants are entitled to have heard by a federal court.

B. Diversity Jurisdiction

Diversity jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 when there is "complete diversity of citizenship of the named parties and an amount in controversy in excess of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs." See Manguno v. Prudential Prop. and Cas. Ins. Co., 276 F.3d 720, 723 (5th Cir. 2002). Life of Georgia is a Georgia corporation with its principal place of business in Georgia (Complaint, ¶ 2). Life of Georgia is therefore a citizen of the state of Georgia. The Individual Defendants are alleged to be residents of the state of Mississippi. (Id., ¶¶ 4-73.)

The Individual Defendants plainly have been fraudulently joined, as Plaintiffs have no possibility of recovering against any of them. Accordingly, these parties' citizenship should be disregarded for diversity purposes. Additionally, because of the severe nature of Plaintiffs' allegations and the types of relief they seek, the true amount in controversy in this case exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs, regardless of the Complaint's claims to the contrary. Because complete diversity exists and the true amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, this Court should exercise diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.7

1. The Non-Diverse Parties Have Been Fraudulently Joined.

When parties have been fraudulently joined to destroy diversity, a District Court may disregard those parties' citizenship for purposes of exercising subject matter jurisdiction. Federal courts recognize at least two types of fraudulent joinder: (1) when there is actual fraud in the

⁷Should Plaintiffs file a motion to remand this action, Defendants will seek remand-related discovery, pursuant to Mississippi Uniform District Court Rule 16.1 (B)(2)(b), which Defendants believe will uncover substantial evidence supporting the arguments set forth below.

plaintiff's pleading of jurisdictional facts; and (2) when there is no possibility that the plaintiff can state a claim against the non-diverse defendant(s). See Griggs v. State Farm Lloyds, 181 F.3d 694, 699 (5th Cir. 1999); Burden v. General Dynamics Corp., 60 F.3d 213, 217 (5th Cir. 1995); Cavallini v. State Farm Mut. Auto Ins. Co., 44 F.3d 256, 259 (5th Cir. 1995).

a. The Individual Defendants have been fraudulently joined because they cannot be liable under the facts alleged in Plaintiffs' Complaint.

The Complaint contains no factual or legal basis for joining the Individual Defendants in this litigation. The Complaint does not allege which Individual Defendant allegedly wronged which Plaintiff, let alone allege specifically what each Individual Defendant's allegedly wrongful acts were. It is obvious that Plaintiffs only are interested in (and actually are) pursuing Life of Georgia as a Defendant, and that the Individual Defendants are guilty of nothing more than being Mississippi residents. Indeed, Plaintiffs' Complaint does not even allege service addresses, or an intent to serve, the vast majority of the Individual Defendants.

As a result, the Individual Defendants' citizenship should be ignored and they should be dropped from the case as Defendants. When the citizenship of the fraudulently joined non-diverse Individual Defendants is disregarded and only proper parties (Plaintiffs and Life of Georgia) are included in the litigation, complete diversity exists, and this Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1).

⁸Even if there were claims against these particular Individual Defendants, the facts as pled support either liability against Life of Georgia, or liability against the Individual Defendants, but not both. <u>See infra</u>. It is therefore plain that Plaintiffs have fraudulently joined the Individual Defendants in this action for the sole purpose of attempting to destroy this Court's diversity jurisdiction.

i. There is no factual basis for any claim against the Individual Defendants.

Plaintiffs' Complaint fails to allege facts that, even if taken as true, would support a finding of actionable wrongdoing by any of the Individual Defendants. The Complaint says nothing about Individual Defendants' alleged individual actions. The Complaint also tacitly admits that these Plaintiffs are not able to identify any of the Individual Defendants as the alleged individual wrongdoers; the most specific allegation of wrongdoing by an individual is directed at the John Doe Defendants. (See Complaint, ¶90). Plaintiffs offer no explanation why they have sued the particular Individual Defendants who are named. Defendants submit that they do not because the explanation is one of jurisdictional manipulation.

Plaintiffs do not allege – because they cannot truthfully do so – that any of the Individual Defendants have had any involvement with rate-setting or underwriting. As a result, none could have committed the core acts alleged in Plaintiffs' Complaint, i.e., setting premiums at a higher rate for African-Americans than for Caucasians. The Individual Defendants should be dismissed immediately for this reason alone, and should not be considered for jurisdictional purposes.

What allegations there are against the Individual Defendants are wholly conclusory. But a "plaintiff must plead specific facts, not mere conclusory allegations." Addison v. Allstate Ins. Co., 58 F. Supp. 2d 729, 734 (S.D. Miss. 1999) (non-diverse defendant was fraudulently joined where Complaint contained only conclusory allegations as to individual) (internal citation omitted). See also Sancier v. Reserve Nat'l Ins. Co., No. 3:95CV853LN, Memorandum Opinion and Order at p. 6 (S.D. Miss. Feb. 5, 1996) ("[a] plaintiff may not avoid federal jurisdiction simply by incanting such conclusory legal characterizations as these. Rather, the plaintiff must identify the facts which, if proven, would support a finding that [the agent] committed some independent wrong for which he

could potentially incur liability") (emphasis in original); <u>Brabham v. Brabham</u>, 483 So. 2d 341, 342 (Miss. 1986); <u>Shushany v. Allwaste, Inc.</u>, 992 F.2d 517, 521 (5th Cir. 1993).

Plaintiffs must state specific, viable claims against the Individual Defendants for their citizenship to be considered:

Plaintiffs appear to argue that any mere theoretical possibility of recovery under local law – no matter how remote or fanciful – suffices to preclude removal. We reject this contention. As the cited authorities reflect, there must at least be arguably a *reasonable* basis for predicting that state law would allow recovery in order to preclude a finding of fraudulent joinder.

Badon v. RJR Nabisco Inc., 236 F.3d 282, 286 & n.4 (5th Cir. 2000). See also Rainwater v. Lamar Life Ins. Co., No. 2:01-CV-179PG, 2003 WL 397780 (S.D. Miss. Feb 14, 2003) (quoting B., Inc. v. Miller Brewing, 663 F.2d 545, 550 (5th Cir. 1981)) ("to determine that there is 'no possibility' of recovery, the district court must determine whether as 'a matter of law, there [is] no reasonable basis for predicting that the plaintiff might establish liability against a named in-state defendant in state court'"). To hold otherwise would gut the fraudulent joinder doctrine, which is essential to protecting a diverse defendant's right to a federal forum.

Federal jurisdiction exists unless there truly is a reasonable possibility of recovery against the Individual Defendants because, as the Fifth Circuit has observed, "... removal based on diversity of citizenship is a right conferred by Congress, the need for which may well be greatest when the plaintiff tries hardest to defeat it.'" <u>Grassi v. Ciba-Geigy, Ltd.</u>, 894 F.2d 181, 185 (5th Cir. 1990)

⁹<u>Badon</u> cited five other Fifth Circuit cases, spanning the past four decades, all making it clear that the "possibility" of viable claims must be a *reasonable* possibility.

(internal citation omitted). It was to guard this right, and to protect federal jurisdiction, that the United States Supreme Court developed the fraudulent joinder doctrine:

While the plaintiff, in good faith, may proceed in the state courts upon a cause of action which he alleges to be joint, it is equally true that the Federal courts should not sanction devices intended to prevent a removal to a Federal court where one has that right, and should be equally vigilant to protect the right to proceed in the Federal court as to permit the state courts, in proper cases, to retain their own jurisdiction.

Wecker v. National Enameling & Stamping Co., 204 U.S. 176, 185-86 (1907).

When Plaintiffs' Complaint is read as a whole, it is clear that the Individual Defendants are not directly accused of any <u>specific</u> unlawful conduct, and that Plaintiffs instead allege that **Life of Georgia** is guilty of a centralized scheme of intentionally discriminatory misconduct. The policies allegedly at issue are Life of Georgia policies, allegedly sold by its agents and employees, pursuant to its alleged practice and policies. Complaint, ¶¶ 2, 3, 67, 73, 79-81, 84, 90. Therefore, Plaintiffs' own allegations show that the Individual Defendants have been fraudulently joined, and that this Court has diversity jurisdiction over this matter. <u>See Lewis v. Wyeth-Ayerst Pharm.</u>, Inc., Civil Action No. 5:00CV102 LN (S.D. Miss. Sep. 25, 2000) (overall theme of complaint belied suggestion of individual liability on the part of the non-diverse defendants). ¹⁰

Defendants anticipate that Plaintiffs will try to argue that there is no fraudulent joinder in this case pursuant to the holding in a recent Fifth Circuit decision, <u>Smallwood v. Ill. Central R.R. Co.</u>,

¹⁰Even if Plaintiffs' Complaint were to state a colorable claim against the Individual Defendants, "in testing for fraudulent joinder the district court in its discretion may 'pierce the pleadings'" and fraudulent joinder is established if summary judgment type evidence demonstrates that, "'as a matter of law, there [is] no reasonable basis for predicting that the Plaintiff might establish liability against a named in-state defendant in state court.'" Badon, supra, 224 F.3d at 389 n.10 (5th Cir. 2000) (quoting Burden v. General Dynamics Corp., 60 F.3d 213, 217 (5th Cir. 1995)); see also Coleman, 238 F. Supp. 2d at 809 (citing Cavallini, 44 F.3d at 256). This type of evidence will be gathered through remand-related discovery.

342 F.3d 400 (5th Cir. 2003). Smallwood held that there could not be fraudulent joinder where the diverse and the non-diverse defendants (who, unlike here, were not employer and employee) were both entitled to the same defense (specifically, that a federal statute pre-empted the claims against both). 342 F.3d at 405-6. Smallwood does not apply to a case such as this one, where the defenses that preclude liability against the non-diverse defendants (see discussion infra) do not apply to the diverse defendant. Nor does Smallwood apply where, as here, the Complaint makes no specific factual allegations against the particular individuals named as non-diverse defendants. In sum, Smallwood does not apply in this case because the arguments herein relate specifically to the fraudulently joined Individual Defendants.

ii. There is no legal basis for any claim against the Individual Defendants.

Even if the Individual Defendants had some factual connection to the policies at issue in this suit, none of the claims directed at the Individual Defendants would be actionable. The <u>Coleman</u> case is particularly instructive on this point. There, as here, the claims asserted against the individual defendants were fraud-based, and the court dismissed the claims against the individual defendants because the "Plaintiffs failed to assert claims against the Individual Defendants for which recovery may be awarded in state court." <u>See Coleman</u>, 238 F. Supp. 2d at 814. There, as here, the defenses that precluded liability applied uniquely to the non-diverse, individual defendants.

b. Statute of Limitations/Laches

The statute of limitations and the doctrine of laches would bar any possibility of recovery against any Defendant in this case. However, while the Statute of Limitations is an issue that Life

of Georgia and the Individual Defendants have in common, it is not the same defense due to the different theories of liability and the specific facts which relate to the claims against Defendants.¹¹

Plaintiffs allege Life of Georgia engaged in a continuing pattern of fraudulent conduct by failing to disclose information to Plaintiffs. In contrast, the Individual Defendants are alleged to have failed to disclose this information to Plaintiffs at the point of sale. Any claim in Plaintiffs' Complaint against the Individual Defendants arose, if at all, at the time Plaintiffs purchased their policies, i.e., the point of sale. Dunn v. Dent, 153 So. 798 (Miss. 1934). Accord Stasher v. Union Nat'l Life Ins. Co., No. 3:00-CV-58BN (S.D. Miss. March 29, 2000) (complaint alleging insurance agents "fraudulently induced [plaintiff] to apply for and pay for" certain policies, and that "but for [agents] solicitation and fraudulent representations, [plaintiff] would not have agreed to purchase these policies" was barred by the statute of limitations because "any alleged fraudulent statements made by [agent] in inducing [plaintiff] to purchase the policies 'were made at the time the policies were purchased, seventeen years prior to filing"). 12 This distinction is important because, on the one hand, the Plaintiffs allege Life of Georgia had discriminatory policies and practices as an institutional matter. If this is true, and the Individual Defendants are accused of no more than carrying out those alleged policies, then the Individual Defendants cannot, as a matter of law (as discussed infra), be liable for their acts. However, if the Individual Defendants independently

¹¹For example, Plaintiffs' claims for fraud against the Individual Defendants relate to the specific representations, actions or inactions each Individual Defendant made. Thus a highly fact-specific inquiry that applies here.

¹²Plaintiffs' claims are subject to Mississippi's general three to six year statute of limitations. Miss. Code. § 15-1-49(1). Section 15-2-49 applies a six year statute of limitations to all causes of action accruing before March 12, 1990, and a three year limit to claims accruing on or after that date. See Peters v. Metropolitan Life Ins. Co., 164 F. Supp. 2d 830, 837-38 (S.D. Miss. 2001). The distinction is meaningless in this case because Plaintiffs' claims, if any, accrued decades ago, and would be barred by either limit. Likewise, for the same reasons, the doctrine of laches bars their equitable claims.

committed illegal acts against any Plaintiff, then those acts were not the policy or practice of Life of Georgia and were not within the scope of any Individual Defendant's employment. As such, while there is a statute of limitations defense for every Defendant in this case, the specific claims – legal and factual – to which that defense applies are strikingly different for each Defendant and are therefore outside the scope of the <u>Smallwood</u> holding.

Just last year, the Mississippi Supreme Court reaffirmed this long-standing principle. In Stephens v. Equitable Life Assurance Soc'y, 850 So. 2d 78 (Miss. 2003), the plaintiffs brought suit alleging fraud and oral misrepresentations in connection with certain life insurance policies issued in 1972. The Mississippi Supreme Court dismissed plaintiff's claims, finding that the alleged fraud occurred at the point of sale, and that since the purchases of the policies were made in 1972, the causes of action for fraud and misrepresentation accrued in 1972. <u>Id.</u> at 83.

Plaintiffs' offhand reliance on a poorly articulated "fraudulent concealment" theory does not avoid the effect of the limitations period on the Individual Defendants. The Complaint fails to allege the requisite elements to rely on a fraudulent concealment theory as to the Individual Defendants. As set forth by the Mississippi Supreme Court in Stephens, "the plaintiffs have a two-fold obligation to demonstrate that (1) some affirmative act or conduct was done and prevented discovery of a claim, and (2) due diligence was performed on their part to discover it." Id. at 84. See also Thomas v. Ford Motor Credit Corp., 1997 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23024, at *5 (S.D. Miss.). Nowhere in their Complaint is there even a hint that Plaintiffs exercised any diligence, much less due diligence, in connection with their alleged claims. Additionally, when fraudulent concealment is "pled in a complaint, as the Plaintiffs have done in this case . . . the claims fall under the purview of 'fraud' claims that must be pled specifically under the requirements of Rule 9(b)." Coleman, 238 F. Supp. 2d at 813. As is

more fully explained below, Plaintiffs have made no effort to plead the necessary elements of a fraud claim against any of the Individual Defendants.

Recently, the Fifth Circuit recognized and applied the rule and rationale expressed in Stephens and its predecessors, when the Court of Appeals affirmed the denial of remand in Ross v. Citifinancial, Inc., 344 F.3d 458 (5th Cir. 2003). The Fifth Circuit issued the Ross opinion after its ruling in Smallwood, implicitly recognizing that Smallwood does not apply in the context of fraudtype claims, which are necessarily dependent on facts and allegations specific to each Defendant.

Finally, any possible equitable claims against the Individual Defendants would be barred by the doctrine of laches. See Grant v. State, 686 So. 2d 1078, 1089 (Miss. 1996); see generally Holmberg v. Armbrecht, 327 U.S. 392, 396 (1946). In sum, both law and equity require that the stale and otherwise unviable claims against the Individual Defendants be dismissed as grossly untimely. Because they are properly dismissed, Plaintiffs' claims against the Individual Defendants have no reasonable chance of success.

c. Specific Purported Causes of Action

i. Fraud-Type Claims

While the Complaint nominally purports to allege fraudulent conduct by the Individual Defendants, it fails, as it must, to allege all nine elements of a fraud-type claim as to each. Plaintiffs' allegations therefore fail to state any fraud-type claim against the Individual Defendants as a matter of law because they fail to comply with Rule 9(b) of the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure. In Mississippi, "[t]he circumstances of the alleged fraud such as the time, place and contents of any

false representations or conduct must be stated." <u>Brabham</u>, <u>supra</u>, 483 So. 2d at 342; <u>see also Allen v. Mac Tools, Inc.</u>, 671 So. 2d 636, 642 (Miss. 1996); <u>Coleman</u>, 238 F. Supp. 2d at 813.¹³

Similarly, to the extent that Plaintiffs' Complaint attempts to state a claim for fraudulent omission against the Individual Defendants, it fails because it does not allege facts that would give rise to a duty to speak. Fidenas A.G. v. Honeywell, Inc., 501 F. Supp. 1029, 1039-40 (S.D.N.Y. 1980) (complaint failed to satisfy Rule 9(b) where it failed to allege a relationship between the parties that would give rise to a duty to disclose); Chrysler Credit Corp. v. Whitney Nat'l Bank, 824 F. Supp. 587, 598 (E.D. La. 1993). Nor does the Complaint allege "some action, affirmative in nature" that each of the Individual Defendants committed, which is the sine qua non of a misrepresentation claim based on omission or concealment. Rankin v. Brokman, 502 So. 2d 644, 646 (Miss. 1987). In any event, any such a claim would also be barred by the fact that the Individual Defendants could not possibly have concealed from Plaintiffs the amount of the premiums that the Plaintiffs themselves paid. Any claimed reliance to the contrary would be unreasonable as a matter of law. See, e.g., Barhonovich v. American Nat'l Ins. Co., 947 F.2d 775, 778 (5th Cir. 1991) (as a matter of law, insured's reliance on agent's claims were unreasonable); American States Ins. Co. v. Natchez Steam Laundry, 131 F.3d 551, 555 (5th Cir. 1998); Watson v. First Commonwealth Life, 686 F. Supp. 153, 155 (S.D. Miss. 1988); Titan Indem. Co. v. City of Brandon, 27 F. Supp. 2d 693 (S.D. Miss. 1997); Wayne Griffen & Sons, Inc. v. U.S.F.&G., No. 3:93CV97-B-A (N.D. Miss. Jan. 9, 1995) (as a matter of law, insured's reliance on alleged misrepresentation was unreasonable); Pulmonary Advisory Servs., Inc. v. Aetna Life & Cas., No. 3:99CV913LN (S.D. Miss. May 19,

¹³Likewise, in federal court, "[a]t a minimum, Rule 9(b) requires allegations of the particulars of time, place and contents of the false representations, as well as the identity of the person making the misrepresentation and what he obtained thereby." <u>Tel-Phonic Servs., Inc. v. TBS Int'1, Inc.</u>, 975 F.2d 1134, 1139 (5th Cir. 1992).

2000), p. 8 ("[I]t is clear beyond question that Plaintiffs' claim against the agents cannot possibly succeed for another reason urged by the defendants, namely, that Plaintiffs cannot prove that they reasonably relied on the agents' alleged misrepresentations that were contrary to the terms of the policy.").

Finally, when a Complaint alleges fraud on the part of two or more defendants, as Plaintiffs attempt to do, Rule 9(b) requires that a plaintiff *separately identify for each defendant* those facts alleged to give rise to a fraud claim. Thornton v. Micrografx, Inc., 878 F. Supp. 931, 938 (N.D. Tex. 1995). A complaint that "lump[s] together all of the Defendants in [its] allegations of fraud," and is "devoid of specific allegations with respect to the separate Defendants," is inadequate and fails to meet Rule 9(b) standards. Brooks v. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Fla., Inc., 116 F.3d 1364, 1380-81 (11th Cir. 1997); see also Coleman, 238 F. Supp. 2d at 812 ("In short, the fraud claims in the Complaint are broad and general allegations which fail to identify the specifics of the fraudulent statements, the person(s) who made the statements, the person(s) to whom the statements were made, and the location(s) and time(s) at which the statements were allegedly made. Under these circumstances, the Court finds that Plaintiffs' fraud claims against the Individual Defendants . . . should be dismissed.").

In this case, Plaintiffs' Complaint does not set forth separate allegations against each of the Individual Defendants specifically. Rather, the Complaint alleges that Life of Georgia made fraudulent misrepresentations, but says nothing as to any specific Individual Defendant. Thus, Plaintiffs' Complaint cannot state independent fraud claims against all the Individual Defendants. Ross v. Citifinancial, supra.

ii. State Statutory Claims

The statutory claims under the Mississippi Insurance Code – Plaintiffs' so-called "Discrimination Under Mississippi Law" claim – against the Individual Defendants are similarly baseless. ¹⁴

This Code section applies to insurance companies; the terms of the statute do not apply to agents in their individual capacities. ¹⁵ Accordingly, Plaintiffs' state statutory "discrimination" claim against the Individual Defendants cannot proceed as a matter of law.

d. Summary of Fraudulent Joinder.

Because there is no factual or legal possibility of recovery against them, the Individual Defendants have been fraudulently joined in this action. As discussed above, it is apparent that Plaintiffs have not alleged any viable claims against the Individual Defendants. Because the only reason Plaintiffs have named the non-resident Plaintiffs and the Individual Defendants is to attempt

¹⁴The Mississippi Insurance Code precludes <u>insurance companies</u> from making "any distinction or discrimination in favor of individuals of the same class and equal expectation of life in the amount of payments of rates charged for policies of life or endowment insurance." Miss. Code § 83-5-37.

¹⁵As such, this is yet another instance where the Individual Defendants have a defense that does not apply to Life of Georgia. There are defenses to Plaintiffs' state statutory claims, however, which are common to all Defendants. First, the Mississippi Insurance Code does not provide a private right of action. Rather, the proper party to investigate and bring actions for alleged violations of the Insurance Code is the insurance commissioner, not individual Mississippi citizens. See Miss. Code § 83-5-37; Watson v. First Commonwealth Life Ins. Co., 686 F. Supp. 153, 155 (S.D. Miss. 1988) (Mississippi Insurance Code provides no private right of action). Plaintiffs' claims under the MCPA are also encompassed by the Insurance Code's regulation of unfair trade practices and deceptive acts. Miss. Code § 83-5-29 (purpose of Insurance Code is to regulate insurance trade by defining and prohibiting unfair and deceptive trade practices); § 83-5-35 (defining unfair and deceptive trade practices by insurance companies and their agents). This means Plaintiffs are required to engage in the dispute resolution proceedings required by the MCPA prior to bringing suit. See Miss. Code § 75-24-15(2). Upon information and belief, none of the Plaintiffs has done this. Finally, even if the Plaintiffs satisfied the statutory prerequisites to bringing a private right of action under the MCPA, such an action would not be available for these particular Plaintiffs with respect to their insurance policies because the MCPA applies only to "goods or services." Miss. Code § 75-24-15(1). As a matter of law, insurance contracts are neither a "good" nor a "service." See Burley v. Homeowners Warranty Corp., 773 F. Supp. 844, 863 (S.D. Miss. 1990) ("[T]he [insurance] policy at issue in the case at bar is not a 'good' or 'service'....").

to destroy diversity, this Court should disregard the citizenship of the non-resident Plaintiffs and the Individual Defendants, and assert diversity jurisdiction over this matter.

2. The Amount in Controversy Exceeds the Jurisdictional Minimum.

When the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and the named parties are completely diverse, a federal court may exercise jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332. See Gebbia v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 233 F.3d 880, 882 (5th Cir. 2000). In determining the amount in controversy, a district court should first look to the face of the complaint and "ask whether the amount in controversy was likely to exceed" the jurisdictional minimum. Allen v. R&H Oil & Gas Co., 63 F.3d 1326, 1336 (5th Cir. 1995). Although Plaintiffs' Complaint purports to seek only \$74,500 (Complaint, ¶ 58) in damages for each Plaintiff, the repeated allegations of intentional, egregious, pervasive, systematic, and malicious misconduct, as well as Plaintiffs' request for punitive damages, make clear that the amount in controversy is well over \$75,000.00.

When claims of a similar nature regularly exceed the jurisdictional minimum, courts often have looked past the plaintiffs' complaint in determining the amount in controversy. See, e.g., Marcel v. Pool Co., 5 F.3d 81, 83-84 (5th Cir. 1993) (amount in controversy exceeded jurisdictional minimum, because plaintiffs with similar types of injuries were regularly awarded large awards). Here, Plaintiffs seek actual and punitive damages. (Complaint, Preamble, ¶ 58.) Similar claims against insurance companies in Mississippi often involve significant punitive damages awards. See, e.g., State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. Grimes, 722 So. 2d 637 (Miss. 1998) (\$1.2 million award); Employers Mut. Cas. Co. v. Tompkins, 490 So. 2d 897 (Miss. 1986) (\$400,000 award); Bankers

Life & Cas. Co. v. Crenshaw, 483 So. 254 (Miss. 1985) (\$1.6 million award). As such, Defendants submit that Plaintiffs' requested damages amount is \$74,500 only so that Plaintiffs can attempt to avoid federal jurisdiction. If this Court were to remand this case, Plaintiffs would waste no time in seeking an amount much greater than \$75,000. In fact, in order to prevent such forum shopping, the Fifth Circuit has held that a mere claim of an amount less than the jurisdictional limit in the Complaint is insufficient to prevent removal. DeAguilar v. Boeing Co., 47 F.3d 1404 (5th Cir. 1995) (absent state law limiting damages to amount requested in Complaint, plaintiff who seeks to prevent removal must file a binding stipulation or affidavit with Complaint). Plaintiffs have not submitted sworn testimony confirming an intent to accept damages below the jurisdictional limit. Unless and until each Plaintiff does so, removal on diversity grounds is proper. 17

Moreover, Plaintiffs are seeking punitive damages. There are 121 Plaintiffs in this case, all alleging severe and pernicious racial discrimination. Accordingly, any claim for punitive damages can reasonably be expected to exceed a total of \$75,000. This is very significant, because although the general rule is that the claimed individual damages of multiple plaintiffs may not be aggregated to reach the jurisdictional minimum, the collective nature of <u>punitive</u> damages under Mississippi law requires that the <u>entire amount</u> of punitive damages be aggregated, and that this whole amount be

¹⁶It is awards like these that have made Mississippi's state courts "... a mecca for Plaintiff's claims against out-of-state businesses" Arnold v. State Farm Fire and Cas. Co., 277 F.3d 772, 773 (5th Cir. 2001). In a case that is substantively similar to this case, recognition of these motives caused Judge Lee of the Southern District of Mississippi to hold that "... within the present climate of Mississippi tort law, it is facially apparent the Plaintiff's claims exceed the \$75,000 jurisdictional amount." Johnson v. New England Mut. Life Ins. Co., et al., C.A. No. 4:03cv71LN, slip op., p. 5 (Sept. 4, 2003, S.D. Miss.) (citing, Arnold, supra, 277 F.3d at 775 n. 3). This Court should adopt Judge Lee's skepticism in considering the damages claims in this case.

¹⁷As mentioned previously, If Plaintiffs file a motion to remand, Defendants will seek to utilize remand-related discovery to determine from the Plaintiffs themselves whether any of them are in fact seeking more than \$75,000.

counted toward each plaintiff's amount in controversy. See Allen v. R&H Oil & Gas Co., 63 F.3d 1326, 1333-1135 (5th Cir. 1995). An aggregated punitive damages amount can clearly be expected to push the total amount in controversy over \$75,000.

For each of the foregoing reasons, Defendants submit that the jurisdictional amount in controversy limit is met in this case.

IV. CONCLUSION

Because Plaintiffs' Complaint raises a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1981 or § 1982, this Court has original federal question jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and can exercise supplemental jurisdiction over any arguably viable state claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367. Additionally, because Plaintiffs have fraudulently joined the Individual Defendants, and because the true amount in controversy in this case clearly exceeds \$75,000, this Court may properly exercise diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.

WHEREFORE, Defendants hereby remove this action from the Circuit Court of Adams County, Mississippi to the United States Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Western Division.

Respectfully submitted, this the 13th day of February, 2004.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA PAUL NORRELL, RANDY BRITT, WALTER MONTGOMERY and PAUL UPTON

By: Claure W. Kelme
One of Their Attorneys

OF COUNSEL:

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

I, M. L. "Binkey" Vines, Circuit Clerk of Adams County, do hereby certify that the following pages are certified copies of the original proceedings filed in the case of 04 - kV - 0005 - 5.

M.L. "Binkey" Vines

Circuit Clerk of Adam County

By: Word

D. C.



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BILLIE A AULD AND
ALL PLAINTIFFS LISTED ON
ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A",

vs. **

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA; HARVEY ADCOCK;

F ALLEGREZZA; EDWARD C BLAND;*

L BOONE; M R BOONE;

L BOONE, JR; TIMMY BORGOGNONI; RANDY BRITT:

L BROWN; JANICE BULTON;

L H BUROI; BOBBY BYRNES;

BARBARA COOPER; J K M CRAIG;

PAUL R CUTTING; HENRY DAVIS;

TERRY W DAVIS; CLINTON

DICKERSON; HANK FAVAROTH;

JOHN FELTON; HOWARD

FOREMAN; HOWARD FULGHAM;

S GARNARD; MARVIN GIBBS;

JAMES GRAY; JOHN HAND;

JOHN HARRINGTON; ARNOLD

HENDERSON; E JACKSON;

GREGORY JACKSON; SHIRLEY JENRETTE; BUBBA JOHNSON;

LES KING; OLIVER KING:

OLEVAR S KING; CRAIG KIRBY;

DAVIS LABELL; GREGG LANE; *

J MALLY; IVY MANEY;

MAYO MANGUM; IVY MAUERY;

JAMES MAYS; RALPH G MAYS;

O W MCRAE; IVY MEMIY;

JOHN G MIMBS; WALTER

MONTGOMERY; WILLIAM
MONTGOMERY, DALIL NORDEL

MONTGOMERY; PAUL NORRELL;

LARRY O'CONNER; LAWRENCE M PHILLIPS; A PREWITT;

COCHRAN PRICE; MAXINE SALLEY; *

CHARLES SMITH; CLIDE SMITH;

CLYDE W SMITH; CURTIS SMITH;

LESLIE SMITH; LISA THOMPSON;

PAUL UPTON; GILBERT WALDEN;

CIVIL ACTION NO 04-KV. DODI-J

RECEIVED AND FILED

JAN 0 5 2003

M.L. VINES CIRCUIT CLERK
BY______D.C.

CERTIFIED

JAN 15 2004

M.L. WHI GARCUIT CLERK

BY JOHN DOOR D.C.

B WALK; HAROLD WALLEY: BEN WALTMAN; JAMES WATSON; PAUL WATSON; SAM WHITAKE: PENNY WOMBLE; and JOHN DOE 1-500, who are those persons, firms, corporations, associations, proprietorships, or other entities whose names and identities are otherwise unknown at this time by the Plaintiffs, but who will be added by amendment when ascertained and who participated in the rating, developing, selling, servicing, handling, collection on and/or canceling of certain insurance policies of Plaintiffs and/or who participated in acts or omissions that caused damage to policies of Plaintiffs and/or who took and/or converted for their own uses money from Plaintiffs' policies and/or who engaged in a conspiracy or participated in acts or omissions which involved said policies and/or who participated in a cover-up or conspiracy of silence to withhold from the Plaintiffs information about the Plaintiffs' policies and including but not limited too the different and discriminatory rates being charged Plaintiffs and others because of their race, and the other products that were more beneficial and reasonable in pricing which could have been sold to Plaintiffs but was not.

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY JAN 15 2004

Defendants.

COMPLAINT Preamble

Plaintiffs bring this Complaint solely under state law and not under federal law, and

specifically not under the United States Constitution, or any of its amendments, or under 42 USC § 1981 or 1982, or any other federal statute, law, rule, or regulation. Plaintiffs believe and allege that a cause of action exists under the hereinafter set out state law claims for the conduct complained of herein. Federal anti-discrimination laws do not preempt the states for acting under their own common law to protect their citizen from pernicious discrimination and the other activities such as alleged in this complaint; any suggestion to the contrary would be frivolous. This is a lawsuit seeking actual and punitive damages, and attorneys' fees and costs, for fraud and fraudulent inducement, for breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing, for tortious breach of contract, for breach of fiduciary duty, for assumpsit or money had and received, unjust enrichment and imposition of a constructive trust, for negligence and/or gross negligence, for violation of Miss. Code Ann § 83-7-3 (prohibiting discrimination by life insurance companies in the assessing of premiums to its policyholders), and for violation of the Mississippi Consumer Protection Act (Miss. Code Ann. 75-24-1, et seq), and for conversion, all arising out of the sale and handling of certain insurance policies sold and issued to Plaintiffs by Defendants Life Insurance Company of Georgia, Harvey Adcock, F Allegrezza, Edward C Bland, L Boone, M R Boone, L Boone, Jr, Timmy Borgognoni, Randy Britt, L Brown, Janice Bulton, L H Buroi, Bobby Byrnes, Barbara Cooper, J K M Craig, Paul R Cutting, Henry Davis, Terry W Davis, Clinton Dickerson, Hank Favaroth, John Felton, Howard Foreman, Howard Fulgham, S Garnard, Marvin Gibbs, James Gray, John Hand, John Harrington, Arnold Henderson, E Jackson, Gregory Jackson, Shirley Jenrette, Bubba Johnson, Les King, Oliver King, Olevar S King, Craig Kirby, Davis Labell, Gregg Lane, J Mally, Ivy Maney, Mayo Mangum, Ivy Mauery, James Mays, Ralph G Mays, O W Mcrae, Ivy Memiy, John G Mimbs, Walter Montgomery, William Montgomery,

Paul Norrell, Larry O'Conner, Lawrence M Phillips, A Prewitt, Cochran Price, Maxine Salley, Charles Smith, Clide Smith, Clyde W Smith, Curtis Smith, Leslie Smith, Lisa Thompson, Paul Upton, Gilbert Walden, B Walk, Harold Walley, Ben Waltman, James Watson, Paul Watson, Sam Whitake, Penny Womble, and John Does 1-500.

PARTIES

- 1. The name, address, and policy number of Plaintiffs who are insured under the Defendants policies are set forth on Table A, attached to this Complaint. Said table is incorporated into this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 2. Defendant, LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ("Life of Georgia") is a foreign corporation, which conducts substantial business in the State of Mississippi, and which has appointed C T Corporation System, 1201 Peachtree Street, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, 30361, as its agent for service of process. That at all material times, the Defendant Life of Georgia was conducting business by and through various agents or employees, including Unitrin and the individual defendants, acting in managerial capacities within the purpose and scope of their agency or employment as well as in their individual capacity. The acts and conduct alleged herein of such individual defendants were known to, authorized and ratified by the corporate Defendant Life of Georgia and also violated duties owed to the Plaintiffs by the individual defendants.
- 3. Defendants John Doe 1-500, are those persons, firms, corporations, associations, proprietorships, or other entities whose names and identities are otherwise unknown at this time by the Plaintiffs, but who will be added by amendment when ascertained and who participated in the ratings, developing, selling, servicing, handling, collection on and/or canceling of certain

insurance policies of Plaintiffs and/or who participated in acts or omissions that caused damage to policies of Plaintiffs and/or who took and/or converted for their own uses money from Plaintiffs policies and/or who engaged in a conspiracy or participated in acts or omissions which involved said policies and/or who participated in a cover up or conspiracy of silence to with hold from the Plaintiffs information about the Plaintiffs' policies and including but not limited to the different and discriminatory rates being charged Plaintiffs because of their race, and the other products that were more beneficial and reasonable in pricing which could have been sold to Plaintiffs but were not.

- 4. Defendant Harvey Adcock is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 5. Defendant F. Allegrezza is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 6. Defendant Edward C. Bland is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 7. Defendant L. Boone is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 8. Defendant L. Boone, Jr. is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 9. Defendant M. R. Boone is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 10. Defendant Timmy Borgognoni is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi whose address for service is unknown at this time.

- 11. Defendant Randy Britt is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is 2358 Blue Bird Drive, Greenville, Mississippi, 38701-8105...
- 12. Defendant L. Brown is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service of process is unknown at this time.
- 13. Defendant Janice Bulton is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 14. Defendant L. H. Buroi is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 15. Defendant Bobby Byrnes is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 16. Defendant Barbara Cooper is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 17. Defendant J. K. M. Craig is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 18. Defendant Paul R. Cutting is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 19. Defendant Henry Davis is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 20. Defendant Terry W. Davis is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 21. Defendant Clinton Dickerson is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.

- 22. Defendant Hank Favaroth is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 23. Defendant John Felton is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 24. Defendant Howard Foreman is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 25. Defendant Howard Fulgham is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 26. Defendant S. Garnard is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 27. Defendant Marvin Gibbs is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 28. Defendant James Gray is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 29. Defendant John Hand is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 30. Defendant John Harrington is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 31. Defendant Arnold Henderson is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 32. Defendant E. Jackson is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.

- 33. Defendant Gregory Jackson is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 34. Defendant Shirley Jenrette is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 35. Defendant Bubba Johnson is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 36. Defendant Les King is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 37. Defendant Oliver King is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 38. Defendant Olevar S. King is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 39. Defendant Craig Kirby is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 40. Defendant Davis Labell is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 41. Defendant Gregg Lane is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 42. Defendant J Mally is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 43. Defendant Ivy Maney is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.

- 44. Defendant Mayo Mangum is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 45. Defendant Ivy Mauery is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 46. Defendant James Mays is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 47. Defendant Ralph G. Mays is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 48. Defendant O. W. McRae is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 49. Defendant Ivy Memiy is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 50. Defendant John G. Mimbs is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 51. Defendant Walter Montgomery is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is 4582 Hebron Road, Lexington, Mississippi, 39095-9731.
- 52. Defendant William Montgomery is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 53. Defendant Paul Norrell is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is 1583 South Main Street, Greenville, Mississippi, 38701-7008.
- 54. Defendant Larry O'Conner is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.

- 55. Defendant Lawrence M. Phillips is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 56. Defendant A Prewitt is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 57. Defendant Cochran Price is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 58. Defendant Maxine Salley is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 59. Defendant Charles Smith is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 60. Defendant Clide Smith is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 61. Defendant Clyde W. Smith is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 62. Defendant Curtis Smith is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 63. Defendant Leslie Smith is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 64. Defendant Lisa Thompson is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 65. Defendant Paul Upton is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is 1011 Anniston Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi, 39507-2742.

- 66. Defendant Gilbert Walden is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 67. Defendant B. Walk is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 68. Defendant Harold Walley is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 69. Defendant Ben Waltman is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 70. Defendant James Watson is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 71. Defendant Paul Watson is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 72. Defendant Sam Whitake is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.
- 73. Defendant Penny Womble is an adult resident citizen of Mississippi, whose address for service is unknown at this time.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

74. This Court has subject matter and personal jurisdiction over the parties to this cause of action. Plaintiffs bring this Complaint solely under state law and not under federal law, and specifically not under the United States Constitution, or any of its amendments, or under 42 USC § 1981 or 1982, or any other federal statute, law, or regulation. Plaintiffs believe and allege that a cause of action exists under the hereinafter set out state law claims for the conduct

complained of herein. Federal anti-discrimination laws have not pre-empted the states from acting under their own common law to protect their citizens from pernicious racial discrimationan such as alleged in this complaint; any suggestion to the contrary would be frivolous based on the following rulings from Mississippi federal district courts:

- (a) Willis, et al. v. Life Ins. Co. of Georgia, et al., No. 4:00cv323PB (N.D. Miss. May 30, 2001);
- (b) McDonald, et al. v. Life Ins. Co. of Georgia, et al., No. 5:01cv38WS (S.D. Miss. May 30, 2001);
- (c) Davenport, et al. v. Mutual Savings Life Ins. Co., et al., No. 5:01cv64BrS (S.D. Miss. June 21, 2001).
- 75. The individual amount in controversy as to each individual Plaintiff does not exceed \$74,500, including interest, any award of attorneys fees, costs, restitution and treble or punitive damages. Plaintiffs specifically disclaim any recovery greater than \$74,500.00, including compensatory damages, treble damages, punitive damages, restitution and awardable attorneys fees and costs. Plaintiffs categorically limit their total claims to \$74,500.00 per Plaintiff.
- 76. Venue is proper in this Court under Miss. Code Ann. § 11-11-3 and Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure 20.

FACTS AND ALLEGATIONS

- 77. Plaintiffs are unsophisticated in insurance matters and at all material times hereto relied on defendants to properly advise them.
 - 78. Plaintiffs are Black-Americans.

- 79. Between the years of 1941 (or earlier) and the present, Plaintiffs were sold policies of insurance to cover hospital, accident and death expenses. Plaintiffs were sold policies, including low value and/or industrial insurance policies. The policies were sold on the debit route system, and the agents collected the premiums at the Plaintiffs' home on a monthly and/or weekly basis. The policies subject to this litigation are set forth on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.
- 80. The Defendants held a relationship of trust with Plaintiffs and fiduciary trust obligations because Defendants as insurers, are subject to higher and more stringent standards of conduct. The Defendants cultivated a relationship of trust and confidence with Plaintiffs through Defendants' debit collection system of visiting at their home personally each week/month when Defendants collected the payments, and through their marketing, sales literature, and sales presentations and servicing of the policies sold to Plaintiffs. The Defendants further held themselves out as experts in life insurance and knowledgeable about the premium rates appropriate for the policies, the types of policies that best suited Plaintiffs, and the advantages and disadvantages of purchasing certain of Defendants' products. The Defendants additionally encouraged Plaintiffs to rely on Defendants' expertise in this area, knowing they lacked knowledge of the sophisticated pricing and rating structures used by Defendants.
- 81. Further, the Defendants, while acting in fiduciary positions of trust to Plaintiffs made the following fraudulent misrepresentations and/or omissions of fact and/or failed to disclose to them the following material facts:
 - (a) That certain products sold by the Defendants, which would have benefitted the Plaintiffs, were not offered to Black Americans;

- (b) Plaintiffs' selection of product(s) to be purchased was internally limited by the Defendants because of the Plaintiffs' race and color;
- (c) The low value product(s) sold to Plaintiffs were intentionally offered in order to induce Plaintiffs to purchase a number of them because the premiums separately appeared low and reasonable, but together, the premiums were not low and were not reasonable, and were in fact higher than what would have been paid for comparable coverage by Caucasian Americans;
- (d) The premiums charged Black Americans were actually more than Caucasian Americans, and were based on different rate factors and different rate manuals and books;
- (e) Defendants additionally based higher premiums for Blacks on "socioeconomic" factors and underwriting where premiums were raised based purportedly on occupation, social traits and living conditions all the while being disguised, but actually being racial discrimination;
- (f) The products sold to the Plaintiffs were unconscionable products that were calculated to generate profits to Defendants and commissions to its agents with little attending risk to Defendants and with virtually no value to the Plaintiffs;
- (g) The premiums charged by the Defendants were exorbitant in relation to the minimal death benefits actually afforded to Plaintiffs and the risk costs to the Defendants;
- (h) The policies marketed and sold to the Black-Americans are inferior to other insurance products sold by Defendants and other similar types of insurance companies to Caucasians;
- (i) That Plaintiffs were paying more in premiums and obtaining less in benefits because of their race;
- (j) Defendants used different mortality tables/rates for Black-Americans in order to charge them more and higher premiums on their insurance;
- (k) That the mortality tables/rates were used as a pretext by Defendants to justify offering certain, lesser/inferior quality insurance products to Black-Americans only;
- (l) That in later years (after the 1960s), the Defendants continued to

discriminate against Plaintiffs using so-called socio-economic reasons such as job categories and neighborhoods, that were typically held by a majority of the minority segments of society;

- (m) That Defendants were and do still in fact target low income, impoverished, unsophisticated and minority segments of the population and market the policies for sale to these persons;
- (n) That the charging and collecting of premium payments from Black-Americans which were higher than the premiums paid by similarly situated Caucasians with the Defendants or other similarly situated companies, was expressly prohibited by the applicable insurance laws, statutes of Mississippi, and the applicable insurance regulations;
- (o) That the actions of the Defendants were considered unfair trade practices and discriminatory;
- 82. Said failures to disclose were made with the intention to deceive the Plaintiffs and did so deceive them to their detriment and damage. Had there been full and complete disclosure to the Plaintiffs about what they were purchasing, what was or should have been available to them for purchase, and how the products performed, the Plaintiffs would not have purchased the products from the Defendants.
- 83. The Defendants stood in fiduciary positions of trust to the Plaintiffs in regard to matters relating to their insurance investments, and the representations of the Defendants made to Plaintiffs about said policies were false, and made by the Defendants with knowledge of their falseness.
- 84. The Defendants developed and pursued a scheme of racial discrimination and deceptive and wrongful sales practices relating to the marketing, sale and administration of particular types of insurance policies, particularly low value life and industrial life to Black-Americans, and further, actively concealed the racial discrimination which occurred and was

occurring at the time of the Plaintiffs' purchases and ownership of the policies. The Defendants never disclosed that the products and the rates it offered to Plaintiffs were higher than the rates offered to Caucasians by the Defendants and other similarly situated companies, and not as good polices as offered to Caucasians.

- 85. Plaintiffs allege that various regulations of the Mississippi Department of Insurance and various states statutes were not followed, complied with and/or were violated by the Defendants prior to the sales, at the time of the sales, and/or at the deliveries of the policies involved in this action, including but not limited to Regulations 67-1, 74-3, and 81-001, and Miss. Code Ann. §§ 83-5-33, 83-5-35, 83-7-3, 83-7-115.
- 86. Plaintiffs further allege that the above was done for the purpose of and with the intent to deceive the Plaintiffs and to cause the Plaintiffs to purchase the policies involved in this action. Said failure to comply with such regulations was fraudulently done with the intent to induce or cause and did induce or cause the Plaintiffs to purchase the policies involved in this litigation, which proximately resulted in damage to Plaintiffs, as set out in this Complaint.
- 87. Plaintiffs allege that, in connection with the fraudulent conduct on the part of the Defendants, said Defendants, separately and severally, consciously or deliberately engaged in oppression, fraud, conspiracy to commit fraud, with regard to the Plaintiffs.
- 88. Said actions/inactions alleged herein were originated in part and/or in whole by Defendants and put into action through their agents, servants, and/or employees to induce potential insureds such as Plaintiffs to purchase Life Insurance Company of Georgia products.
- 89. Further, Plaintiffs allege that the acts and omissions of Defendants were part of a plan, scheme, pattern and practice of all Defendants to misrepresent facts to Plaintiffs and

suppress and conceal facts from Plaintiffs, and that said Defendants have participated in and accomplished the same and/or similar type of actions and inactions on others prior and subsequent to Plaintiffs.

- 90. Defendants Life Insurance Company of Georgia and Defendants John Doe 1-500, with respect to their agents, employees, and servants, either:
 - (a) Knew or should have known of the unfitness of the agents, employees or servants and employed them or continued to employ them, or use their services without proper instruction with disregard to the rights and financial safety and security of the Plaintiffs;
 - (b) Authorized the wrongful conduct;
 - (c) Ratified the wrongful conduct; and/or
 - (d) The acts of said agents, servants or employees were calculated to and did benefit said Defendants.
- 91. Plaintiffs allege that the acts or omissions of the Defendants as aforesaid were malicious, and that the Defendants deliberately omitted and/or failed to disclose same to Plaintiffs. Defendants' actions were intentional and wrongful and were done without just cause or excuse with the intent to injure the Plaintiffs. The acts or omissions of the Defendants were oppressive and Defendants deliberately omitted and/or failed to disclose to the Plaintiffs the aforesaid material facts. The acts or omissions of the Defendants were oppressive because they subjected the Plaintiffs to cruel and unjust hardship with conscious disregard for the rights of the Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants' conduct constituted a pattern or practice of fraudulent acts or omissions.
 - 92. Plaintiffs were not aware of and did not have facts before them to discover the

frauds as alleged herein. Plaintiffs were not sophisticated and knowledgeable in the insurance business and its phrases and terms and was unable to understand the meaning and/or significance of same. Further, Plaintiffs were not capable of reading and comprehending said insurance papers and/or documents.

93. As a proximate consequence of Defendants' actions and inactions, Plaintiffs have been damaged in that they lost much money as payments on their policies; they lost the ability to purchase the products they were told and/or thought they were purchasing; have lost the ability to purchase life insurance at the same price as it could have been purchased when the policies were purchased; suffered extreme emotional distress and/or mental anguish.

COUNT ONE

(Fraudulent Misrepresentation)

- 94. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth in detail herein.
- 95. Plaintiffs bring this action against the Defendants for willful misrepresentation under Mississippi law.
- 96. Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants made false representations and/or omissions of fact to the Plaintiffs concerning existing material facts as indicated herein, and that such representations and/or omissions of fact were made with knowledge or belief on the part of the Defendants that said representations and omissions of fact were false. Said representations and/or omissions of fact were made by the Defendants with the intent to induce the Plaintiffs to

act, and Plaintiffs did in fact rely upon these representations and/or omissions of fact and acted to their detriment.

97. As a proximate consequence of said willful misrepresentations of the Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered damages as stated above.

COUNT TWO

(Reckless Misrepresentation)

- 98. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth in detail herein.
- 99. Plaintiffs bring this action against the Defendants for reckless misrepresentation under Mississippi law.
- 100. Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants made reckless misrepresentations and/or omissions of fact to the Plaintiffs concerning existing material facts and that said representations and/or omissions of fact were made by the Defendants recklessly or without sufficient information. Such reckless misrepresentations and/or omissions of fact were made with the intent to induce the Plaintiffs to act, and Plaintiffs relied on said representations and/or omissions of fact to act to their detriment.
- 101. As a proximate consequence of said reckless misrepresentations of Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered damages as stated above.

COUNT THREE

(Innocent Misrepresentation)

102. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth in detail herein.

- 103. Plaintiffs bring this action for innocent misrepresentation under Mississippi law.
- 104. Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants made innocent misrepresentations and/or omissions of fact concerning existing material facts. Said misrepresentations and/or omissions of fact were made by the Defendants with the intent to induce the Plaintiffs to act, and the Plaintiffs did in fact rely on these representations and/or omissions of fact to their detriment.
- 105. As a proximate consequence of the innocent misrepresentations of Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered damages as stated above.

COUNT FOUR

(Fraudulent Concealment and Suppression)

- 106. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth in detail herein.
 - 107. Plaintiffs bring this action for fraudulent concealment and suppression.
- 108. Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants fraudulently concealed and suppressed material facts which Defendants had a duty to and were obligated to communicate to the Plaintiffs within the meaning of Mississippi law.
- 109. Plaintiffs allege that the Defendants had superior knowledge and/or expertise of investment/insurance matters which were not shared by the Plaintiffs, and that Defendants seized upon Plaintiffs' lack of knowledge of investment/insurance matters to sell Plaintiffs insurance which Plaintiffs would not have otherwise purchased if they had full and complete knowledge of the terms of the policies.
 - 110. Plaintiffs suffered damages as stated herein above.

COUNT FIVE

(Discrimination Under Mississippi Law)

- 111. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all paragraphs above as though fully set forth in detail herein.
- 112. Plaintiffs are Black-Americans, and Defendants did discriminate against them because of their race in violation of Mississippi statutory law; specifically including but not limited to, Miss. Code Ann., §§ 83-5-33, 83-5-35, 83-7-3, 83-7-115, (1972).
- 113. Defendants did engage in unfair, discriminatory trade practices in the business of insurance as stated herein above, and did make and permit unfair discrimination between individuals of the same class and equal expectation of life in the rates charged for contracts of life insurance and in the benefits payable, and other terms and conditions of such contract.
- 114. As a proximate consequence of said discrimination and unfair trade practices and violations of the above statutory sections, Plaintiffs suffered damage as stated herein above.

PLAINTIFFS' PRAYER FOR RELIEF AS TO ALL COUNTS HEREIN

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment in their favor, individually against all Defendants, jointly and severally, in the amount of \$74,500.00 for any and all damages, plus costs and interest.

RAMSEY LAW FIRM, P.C.

BY:

JOHN A. PJAZZA (Ms. Bar #100333)

Attorney for Plaintiffs

Of Counsel:

C.E. Sorey, II. (Ms. Bar #7692) 21 N. Florida Street Mobile, Alabama 36607 (251) 479-5655

PLAINTIFFS RESPECTFULLY REQUEST A TRIAL BY JURY AS TO ALL COUNTS.

The Plaintiffs will serve the Defendant, LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, at the following address by certified mail, return receipt requested, upon receipt of the signed summons:

Life Insurance Company of Georgia c/o CT Corporation System 1201 Peachtree Street, Northeast Atlanta, GA 30361

The Plaintiffs will serve the Defendant, RANDY BRITT, at the following address by certified mail, return receipt requested, upon receipt of the signed summons:

Randy Britt 2358 Blue Bird Drive Greenville, MS 38701-8101

The Plaintiffs will serve the Defendant, WALTER MONTGOMERY, at the following address by certified mail, return receipt requested, upon receipt of the signed summons:

Walter Montgomery 4582 Hebron Road Lexington, MS 39095-9731

The Plaintiffs will serve the Defendant, PAUL NORRELL, at the following address by certified mail, return receipt requested, upon receipt of the signed summons:

Paul Norrell 1583 South Main Street Greenville, MS 38701-7008

The Plaintiffs will serve the Defendant, PAUL UPTON, at the following address by certified mail, return receipt requested, upon receipt of the signed summons:

Paul Upton 1011 Anniston Avenue Gulfport, MS 39507-2742

No.	Deborah F. Allaire	7050 Laverne Drive	Mobile	County Mobile	AL	36618	Policy #	1
	Floree Anderson by Dianne	7 000 Eavoino Dino						
2	Anderson	821 Cavley Cove	Greenville	Washington	MS	38701	LOST POLICIES	2
3	Jane Maclin Andrews	2620 Queen M. Johnson Rd.	Lexington	Holmes	MS	39095	1024	3
4	Wesley L. Atterberry	813 Graham St.	Ellisville	Jones	MS	39437	0408	4
							1447	5
							1448	6
5	Billie A. Auld	118 Melrose Avenue	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	5517	7
							5516	8
							6225	9
							6228	10
6	Lestine Avant	5160 Thyatira Rd	Como	Tate	MS	38619	2259	11
7	Alvin & Brenda Bacon	10 Oscar St	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	5378	12
							0239	13
							9188	14
							2032	15
							8310	16
							7686	17
8	Vera Davis Ballard	PO Box 506	Fayette	Jefferson	MS	39069	6694	18
							6695	19
						,	6696	20
	Catherine Barnes							
9	by Cassie Price	719 South Maple	Laurel	Jones	MS	39443	0447	21
							LOST POLICIES	22
							9944	23
							6809	24
							8700	25
							4959	26
							5344	27
10	Marian Barnes	PO Box 873	Laurel	Jones	MS	39441	7397	28
							7403	29
							7398	30
							7404	31
							1036	32
							7400	33
							7401	34
							6451	35
11	Annie L. Beasley	PO Box 322	Collins		MS	39428	6099	36
							3915	37
							6100	38
							3431	39
							4322	40
							0533	41
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No.	Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy#	Polic Cour
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12	Eamestine B. Bell	408 Erie St					4252	46
13	Willie Mae Bennett	2024 Michigan Street	Jackson	Hinds	MS	39203		47
-	TTIME THE SOURCE	2024 Michigali Street	Greenville	Washington	MS	38702	7649	48
14	Marsha A. Bester	223 Jarvis St	<u> </u>				2511	49
	Marona A. Dester	223 Jarvis St	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	6263	50
							9888	51
15	Marsha G. Bester	444 0					. 8880	52
	Marsha O. Dester	114 South Joe Wheeler St	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	3708	53
16	Preston Bester Jr						9672	54
10	Fieston bester Ji	20 Vester Rd	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	7365	55
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							6862	57
47	D						6500	58
17	Preston Bester Sr	114 South Joe Wheeler St	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	0507	59
40							4714	60
18	Lucille Black	PO Box 393	Como	Panola	MS	39619	2242	61
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9	Carl W Blakely	939 South Maple	Laurel		MS	39440	0004	69
20	Gerald Bland	419 Haas St.	Vicksburg	Warren	MS	39180	0541	70
					1110	39100	6242	71
					 		3462	72
				 	 		3465	73
1	Dow H. Bourland	607 Melrose Montebello Pkway	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	1972	74
2	Vernell Boykin	1310 Simmons St	Laurel	·			3596	75
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							7596	92
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23	Jessie Breland	1907 General Pershing					9848	99
	JOGGIO DIGINA	1907 General Persning	Laurel		MS	39440	2586	100
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04							(maint)1116	114
24	Roxie Breland	1207 Wheaton St.	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	1404	115
25	Lee H. Brooks	PO Box 404	Lexington	Holmes	MS	39095	2874	116
26	Sally Brooks	PO Box 404	Lexington	Holmes	MS	39095	4618	117
27	Hattie Broomfield	2410 Old Five Mile Rd	Louise	Humphreys	MS	39097	4498	118
28	R B Broomfield	2410 Old Five Mile Rd	Louise	Humphreys	MS	39097	3161	119
29	Andrew Brown	528 South 4th Avenue	Laurei	Jones	MS	39440	1526	120
							1650	121
30	Elizabeth Brown	1846 Ebenezer Rd	Pickens	Holmes	MS	39146	2297	
31	Herman Brown Sr.	204 Fava Drive	Greenville	Washington	MS	38701	9795	122
32	Love Joe and Ida Bell Brown by Herman Brown Sr.	204 Fava Drive					5/55	123
		LUT FAVA UNVE	Greenville	Washington	MS	38701	Ī	124
3	Trina Brown	226					1	125
_	THIS DIONI	326 Levee St	Yazoo City	Yazoo	MS	39194	8657	126
4	Sidney K. Burch	040 ()					3450	127
_	Signey R. Buigi	316 Joe Magee Rd	Columbia		MS	39429	3679	128
	P-1.1 Ph. 1						6596	129
- 1	Eldora Burkes by Calvin Burkes		İ					
-	o) odivili pulkes						8776	130
3	Irene Bush	100 0						131
-	nene Dusti	109 College St	Greenwood	Leflore	MS	38930		132
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No	. Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy#	Polic Coun
		-					9702	135
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	Files C. Buildenhuit Blank						5254	137
37	Ellen E. Butler by Minnie Stewart	713 Heather Lane	Jackson	Holmes	MS	39206	7681	138
							8866	139
							7682	140
							7683	141
							2600	142
							1112	143
							3919	144
							4420	145
							9458	146
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38	Hope Eloise Duke Campbell	29 Windsor Court	Laurel	Jones	MS	39443	2719	161
							1856	162
							6701	163
							0391	164
							7,788	165
							5323	166
20	0						0390	167
39	Susie Carmichael	2435 Bush Dairy Rd	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	2738	168
							1012	169
							5113	170
							1014	171
							8827	172
10	Howard Chambers Sr	170 Begonia St.	Biloxi	Harrison	MS	39531	6469	173
	1	-					7714	174
1	Joan Gulley Chambers	210 Wayne St.	Waynesboro	Wayne	MS	39367	0916	175
							0917	176
							0918	177
2	Rosemary Chandler	2618 North Rocheblave St.	New Orleans	Orleans	LA	70117	0803	178
							1960	179

43	Jerome Chapman	70.01 " *					Policy#	Cot
44		72 Charlie Dr	Ellisville	Jones	MS	39437	LOST POLICIES	18
	Lula M. Coleman	2246 Palmer Avenue	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	0545	18
							0473	18
							1730	18
							1731	18
					-		7312	18
					_		1026	18
			-				7248	
45	Gloria S. Colston	48 Claiborne St	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120		18
			14410102	Adams	OIVIO	39120	8550	18
46	Gregory L Colston	48 Claiborne St	Natchez	Adams	140	20100	1960	18
	Charles Conner	TO CIAIDOTTIE St	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	9905	19
47	by Debra Dorsey	29 1/2 Beaumont St.	Natchez	A		22.422		
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							5840	196
							1680	19
							5889	198
							1681	199
							9908	200
					+		4748	201
					1-1			202
48	Cynthia Cowart	10 Packwood Road	Tylertown		MS	39667	0397	203
49	Sadie Dalcourt	PO Box 261	Woodville	Wilkinson	MS	39669	7212	204
						33003	3589	204
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							4638	210
							5982	211
	}						1639	212
							8727	213
							4640	214
50	Patricia Daniel	210 High Hill Dr	Vicksburg	Warren	MS	39180	7394	215
		1					7391	216
i1	Linda Joyce Twillie Darby	543 E. 37th Street	Erie		PA	16504	9007	217
					 - 		9470	218
2	Dewayne S. Davis	PO Box 12	Seale	Russell	AL	36875	0085	219
3	Diana M. Davis	105 Catalina Circle	Jackson	Hinds	MS	39284	1889	220
4	James Davis by Carrie M.	COE W. Martin I. W. Co.						220
*	Haywood	605 W. Martin L. King St	Mound Bayou	Bolivar	MS	38762	Lost Policies	221
5	Lauree Martin and Elton Davis	Rt 2 Box 183	Monticello		MS	39654	0057	222 223

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No	. Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy#	Policy Coun
							9199	224
							7322	225
							0374	226
							8403	227
							2364	228
_							0099	229
·	Robert & Alfreda Davis						0072	230
56		PO Box 10264	Prichard	Mobile	AL	36610	1779	231
							9876	232
							9875	233
							9662	234
							2166	235
							2621	236
							9660	237
							9661	238
	Versa Davis						6484	239
57	by Bertha Sullivan	11 13 Street	Clanton	Chilton	AL	35045	1487	240
							148	241
							3037	242
								243
58	Lonnie & Robert Dawson by Helen Dawson	2136 SW 60th St.	Oklahoma City	Oklahoma	ok	73159	5008	244
59	Martha C Denham	411 Monroe St	Lourel				5009	245
		TTT WORKS SE	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	9376	246
					_		3177	247
				<u> </u>			3178	248
							3736	249
60	Estella Dennis	PO Box 56	Shaw	0-6			9356	250
			Silaw	Bolivar	MS	38773	8982	251
				 	_		4042	252
					+		2071	253
				ļ. <u> </u>			5197	254
							0631	255
				 	+ +		0280	256
				ļ <u> </u>	+		8671	257
				-	 		1012	258
				<u> </u>	 		0813	259
					 		4622	260
					 -		2899	261
61	Joseph Alvin DeRogers	746 S. Gayoso Street	New Orleans	Odoose	ļ		8989	262
			THEW OREANS	Orleans	LA	70119	4312	263
\dashv							4313	264
52	Evelyn J. Dozier	149 Chestnut St.	Laurel	Jones	MC	100440		265
 -↓.	-	1	Laures	A01162	MS	39440	7601	266

No	- Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy#	Policy Count
							0247	268
							9236	269
							9237	270
							3799	271
							4007	272
							7089	273
							4740	274
							2791	275
					_		5420	276
							3004	277
63	Ethel L. Durham	126 Cemetary St					6831	278
	asio, E. Danam	120 Cernetary St	Lexington	Holmes	MS	39095	2245	279
							7169	280
							4754	281
64	Pauline Durham	126 Complex Ct					2555	282
65	Estate of McLane Evers	126 Cemetary St 983 South Maple St	Lexington	Holmes	MS	39095	8789	283
	Locate of Wichaile Lyels	aoa sontu wabie st	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	7474	284
66	Mattie Jenelle Ferguson	169 Friendship Rd					5343	285
	made venere i eiguson	109 Filendship Rd	Laurel	Jones	MS	39443	7507	286
							8190	287
							7506	288
_					+ -		8793	289
							8794	290
					<u> </u>		8795	291
					ļ <u> </u>		8796	292
							8797	293
							8798	294
					 		7079	295
67	Sylvester Fleming	106 Cotrena Cir	NI-A-N				8973	296
68	Althea Ford	Rt 2 Box 416	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	9137	297
	111041010	17(2 DOX 4 10	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	9101	298
							1809	299
69	Joan T. Ford	1108 Daisy St	No.		ļ. <u> </u>		8806	300
		1100 Daisy of	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	6799	301
							6266	302
70	John Ford	2930 N. Rocheblave St.	New Orleans	04	<u> </u>		0147	303
		LOOD IV. HOUSEDIAYS OL	New Orleans	Orleans	LA	70117	1781	304
				ļ <u>.</u>			1866	305
							2311	306
ļ				-			2313	307
							2315	308
							5420	309
							5433	310
							9616	311
							9624	312
						Į	9634	313
					ſ	1	9648	314

No	. Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy #	Poli Cou
							1556	31
							1806	310
							7314	31
							7317	31
							2320	319
							3879	320
<u>-</u>							5232	321
71	Barbara Franklin	D. 0. D 047					0585	322
	Daibala Flatikiii	Rt 2 Box 217	Church Hill		MS	39120	7364	323
							6462	324
							7362	325
								326
								327
72	Inez Franklin by Barbara Franklin	Rt 2 Box 217						
	I Idilani	RLZ BUX Z I /	Church Hill		MS	39120	2332	328
							1702	329
							4084	330
73	Mary Denice Franklin	D-14- 0 D-1047					9497	331
13	INALY DELICE FLARKIN	Route 2, Box 217	Church Hill		MS	39120	6462	332
74	Sarah George	7000 4					7362	333
	Saran George	7300 Arabia Avenue	Birmingham	Jefferson	AL	31723	9192	334
	_						3162	335
						-	9190	336
							5784	337
							2317	338
							3257	339
							2594	340
							4997	341
							7182	342
							8292	343
							7544	344
							6472	345
							9189	346
							3163	347
							8600	348
					†		6071	349
75	James Geralds	PO Box 1791	Yazoo City	Yazoo	MS	39194	7807	350
76	Louise Graham	901 Magnolia	Port Gibson	Claiborne	MS	39150	only checks	351
77	Marvin Earnest Gray	5 J B Henry Road	Waynesboro	Wayne	MS	39437	pmt receipts only	352
78	Michael Green Sr	10 Davis Court	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120		353
79	Ronald Greene	527 Victoria Ave	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	8824	354
				_	+	-	6600	355
							5837	356
30	Mary Hall	725 E. Kingston St.	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	1768	357
				 	+ +		3145	358
							4587	359
					 		0465	360

No.	Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy#	Policy Count
							2297	361
							7577	362
	<u> </u>						7575	363
							2687	364
							2685	365
							7576	366
							2688	367
							2686	368
							2298	369
0.4						<u> </u>	2684	370
81	Florine and Robert Hand	440 Riverea Ave	Stonewall	Clarke	MS	39303	4626	371
				·			9327	372
							6947	373
							4326	374
							3540	375
							8994	376
							2872	377
							2358	378
)						4325	379
82	Annie P. Hardaway	120 Shiloh Church Rd	Newton	Newton	MS	39345	6089	380
							6090	381
							6083	382
83	Christine Hardy	1025 South 15th Ave.	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	2979	383
					-		4658	384
							3788	385
							5068	386
							2699	387
					1	+	9162	388
							3919	389
							2191	390
					 		9977	391
•					 -		6378	392
					+ +		2439	393
					 -		2440	394
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				+		0280	395
					-		2439	396
84	Helen & Jesse Hare	1417 Margaret Drive	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	0902	397
		<u> </u>			+	33770	1629	
					+ +		1488	398 399
					+		1629	
					+		3368	400
							5362	401
					 -		3225	402
				-				403
						•	3226	404
		F	1		1 1	ŀ	4364	405
-					 		1486	406

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No.	Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy #	Polic Coun
			<u> </u>		_		3852	408
			<u> </u>			ļ	2834	409
_							2835	410
85	Robert Lee Hare	05444 1 0: -					5927	411
00	Robert Lee Hare	951 Maple Street	Laurel		MS	39440	2834 2835 5927 0 4603 4328 8206 5245 5245 5266 4327 88205 8467 8469 48468 5220 5987	412
							4328	413
							8206	414
							5245	415
							5266	416
							4327	417
							8205	418
86	Paul Hargrave	306 Meirose Montebello Pkwy	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120		419
87	Leroy Harper (Eunice)	PO Box 639	Shelby	Bolivar	MS	38774	8467	420
							8469	421
							8468	422
					† †			423
88	Geneva Harris	313 Pearl St.	Sardis	Panola	MS	38666	5987	424
								425
89	Thelma Harris	214 Pacely St.	Waynesboro	Wayne	MS	39367		426
90	Phebia Haynes	15 Marion Drive	Laurel		MS	39440	5360	427
					1			428
					†			429
					1			430
								431
					 			432
					 			433
				 	 			434
91	Rhonnel Y Heam	1919 NE 7th Place	Gainesville		FL	32641		435
				 	+	02071		436
				 	\vdash			437
,				-				437
								439
					-			440
							0367 5265	441
								442
					- +		5266	443
							2399	444
							6343	445
							6346	446
							4110	447
						-	3048	448
			 .				3453	449
							3168	450
							2296	451
							2399	452
		ŀ					0956	453

No	Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy #	Policy Coun
							3049	454
							7959	455
		_					5745	456
92	Grenh Hefner	444.5						457
32		111 Pecan Drive M	Senatobia	Tate	MS	38668	6041	458
93	Josephine and Charles Henry by Charlene Henry	2908 Banks St.						†
	of Ghanono Holmy	2300 Dariks SL	New Orleans	Orleans	LA	70119	9173	459
							9176	460
							9175	461
		<u> </u>					9179	462
· · · · · ·							9178	463
				- 	_		9172	464
	<u> </u>	 					9177	465
							2013	466
94	Denise Hibbler	2353 Longtown Rd	0				1415	467
	DOMEST HEORE	2000 Congrown Rd	Sarah	Panola	MS	38665	4285	468
				<u> </u>			3405	469
95	Rosie Hibbler	120 Dawkins St	(150	1		1158	470
	Rosilean Hicks	120 Dawkiis St	Louiseville	Winston	MS	39335	6522	471
96	by Lurine Green	702 Harris St	Vicksburg	Warren	MS	39180	0277	472
	Fister Delice						6008	473
97	Eloise Hollis by Sammy Curry	568 West Jess Lyon Rd	Calumbur					
	by duning duny	Job Viest Jess Lyon Au	Columbus	Lowndes	MS	39705	9535	474
					_		9541	475
							9540	476
							9539	477
				 			6028	478
				<u> </u>			8114	479
				<u> </u>			6679	480
					_ _		7811	481
							200 6091	482
-				ļ			4575	483
				<u> </u>			2369	484
				<u> </u>			6032	485
							7546	486
98	Dora Hoover	4500 O		ļ			4778	487
30	Dola i loovei	1522 Gordon Ave	Yazoo City	Yazoo	MS	39194	5380	488
							2758	489
							3178	490
							3179	491
							2757	492
	Hillman Hosey						4071	493
		5 Campbell Barnes Rd		Jones	MS	39443	1587	494
	R. Milford Hough Jr. Molier Hudson	PO Box 1107	Greenville	Washington	MS	38702	Lost Policy	495
		211 Walnut Cir	Yazoo City	Yazoo	MS	39194	8043	496

No		Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy#	Polic Cour
102	Mary G. Hunt						9823	497
							8119	498
103	Willie Joyce Hutson, Jr	632 S. Sherwood Dr	Gulfport	Harrison	MS	39507	6168	499
							7226	500
							7798	501
							2758	502
104	Emma Ivory	1229 Texas St	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	2969	503
							5026	504
105	Doris Jackson	216 Eastland Blvd	Ocean Springs		MS	39564	1014	505
							1015	506
							1012	507
							1013	508
							0662	509
							1594	510
							1599	511
							2258	512
							455 5619	513
							5620	514
							5621	515
							5622	516
							0933	517
					1 1		3413	518
					T		2717	519
					1 1		2718	520
							0663	521
							9598	522
							5622	523
							7145	524
							0933	525
106	Mary Jackson	220 Boradmoor Dr	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	3550	526
107	Catherine Jefferson	4714 Jefferson Ln	Vicksburg	Warren	MS	39180	7132	527
							5162	528
							7197	529
							7198	530
							7199	531
							4196	532
							6984	533
							6524	534
							2720	535
							7133	536
							4353	537
							2721	538
108	Lovie Johnson by Kevin Johnson	PO Box 474	Quitman	Clarke	MS	39355	2875	539
							0768	540
109	Samuel Johnson	1225 Purvis Dr.	Laurei .	ones	MS	39440	7386	541

No.	Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy#	Policy Count
							3365	542
							6559	543
							3915	544
							3841	545
							0898	546
							0613	547
							9416	548
					-		7483	549
							0993	550
							0995	551
							1283	552
							1284	553
							1285	554
							1000	555
							1001	556
							1996	557
							0994	558
							8961	559
110	Inell Joiner	PO Box 371	Macon		MS	39341	8309	560
							9081	561
111	Gradie Lee Jones	PO Box 4074	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	0964	562
112	Ida M. Jones	614 E. 15th St.	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	4041	563
							4043	564
							4045	565
•				-			1679	566
							7158	567
				-			4315	568
113	Jesse Jones	1229 Texas St	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	2985	569
					-	00120	5921	570
114	Joanette Davis Jones	434 Lower Woodville Road	Natchez	Adams	MS	39120	6534	571
					++		6535	572
							9878	573
115	Loueila Jones	602 B Cox Circle	Senatobia	Tate	MS	38668	4738	574
			_		+	50000	3556	575
							7646	576
					+-+			370
116	Rena Jones by John H. White	1309 San Juan Dr.	Flint	Genesee	м	48504	6987	577
					-		7883	578
117	Tommy J. Jones	22 Davenport Alley	Vicksburg	Warren	MS	39183	0217	579
						00.00	4965	580
118	Verlene Jones	PO Box 775	Como	Panola	MS	38619	4113	581
	**************************************				1.0	55015	4020	582
					+		Lost Policy	583
119	Dorothy J. Jordan	478 Smith Chapel Rd	Laurel	Jones	MS	39440	4812	
		women windpen the		20100	1410	J344U		584
							4813	585
120	Glony D. Jordan	PO Boy 105	Lauise	(Urran hara	110	2005-		586 587
120	Glory D. Jordan	PO Box 105	Louise	Humphreys	MS	39097	4815 3178	

								Policy
No.	Name	Address	City	County	ST	Zip	Policy #	Count
<u> </u>							3177	588
<u> </u>							8206	589
121	May W. Williams-Joseph	20693 Freeport Dr	Riverside	Riverside	CA	92508	No Policy	590

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BILLIE A. AULD, ET AL.

PLAINTIFFS. *

vs. * CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-KV DOOK-J

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ET AL.

DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF SERVING DISCOVERY

TO: Adams County Circuit Court Post Office Box 1224 Natchez, MS 39121

Please take notice that the undersigned has served the following along with the Summons and Complaint:

1. Plaintiffs' First Set of Combined Interrogatories, Request For Production of Documents, and Requests for Admissions Propounded to the Defendant Life Insurance Company of Georgia.

Respectfully submitted:

RECEIVED AND FILED

JAN 0 5 2003

John A. Piazza (MS Bar No. 100333)

OF COUNSEL. VINES CIRCUIT CLERK

Ramsey Lev Firm, P.C.

C.E. Sorey, II.

21 North Florida Street

Mobile, Alabama 36607

Telephone: (251) 479-5655

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was served upon the parties listed above along with the Summons and Complaint via certified mail.

JOHN A. PIAZZA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BILLIE A. AULD, ET AL.

PLAINTIFFS,

vs. * CIVIL ACTION NO. OY-KV-3001-J

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ET AL.

DEFENDANTS.

RECEIVED AND FILED

JAN 0 5 2003

PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF COMBINED INTERROGATORIED.C. REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION PROPOUNDED TO THE DEFENDANT, LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA

COMES NOW the Plaintiffs and propound the following Interrogatories, Document Requests and Requests for Admissions, in accordance with the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules 26, 33, 34 and 36, as follows:

I. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>

The following definitions apply to all discovery requests:

- 1. "LIFE OF GEORGIA" shall mean the defendant, Life Insurance Company of Georgia, as well as any predecessor corporation or entity, and all of their respective employees, officers, agents, and representatives.
- 2. "You" or "your" shall mean the defendant, Life of Georgia, and all of its respective agents, representatives, employees, investigators, and attorneys.
- 3. "Anyone acting on your behalf" includes your agents, employees, insurance company, their agents, employees, your attorneys, investigators, and consultants.

- 4. "Custodian" refers to the person having possession, custody, or control of any writing or physical evidence.
- 5. The term "document" shall be synonymous in meaning and equal in scope to the usage of this term in Mississippi Rule of Civil Procedure 34. A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.
 - 6. "Identify", "identification", or "identity", when used in reference to:
- a. An individual or natural person, shall mean to state the person's full name, social security number, residence and business address, and residence and business telephone number;
- b. A business or governmental entity not a natural person, shall mean to state the entity's full name, principal activities, state of legal creation, and address of the principal place of business.
- c. A document, shall mean to state the document's description (e.g., letter, report, memorandum, etc.), the document's title, the document's date, the document's author, and the document's present location;
- d. A communication, contact, or statement, shall mean to state the date, place and substance of the communication, contact, or statement, the persons by and to whom it was made, and each person who was present when it was made.
- 7. "Person" shall mean any natural person or any entity, whether business entity (corporation, association, firm, partnership or otherwise), governmental entity, other legal entity, or any agency, bureau, committee, department, division, subdivision or subsidiary thereof.
 - 8. "Representative" shall mean any officer, director, agent, employee, attorney,

servant or other person acting for or on behalf of the person (as that term is defined herein) referred to in the interrogatory or definition or of the person's affiliate.

- 9. The term "concerning" shall mean relating to, referring to, describing, evidencing of constituting, reflecting on, arising out of, or being in any way or manner legally, factually, or logically connected with the matter discussed.
- 10. "Subject policies" or "the insurance policies" means those certain insurance policies issued to Plaintiffs herein and issued by the Defendants.

INTERROGATORIES

INTERROGATORY NO. 1

State the name, address and telephone number of each and every agent of Life of Georgia who has had any contact with Plaintiffs and state the agents current position(s) with Life of Georgia (if any).

INTERROGATORY NO. 2

Identify each person who participated in the preparation of any of your responses to these discovery requests, or who provided information or assistance in connection with any response, or whom you consulted or from whom you sought information or assistance in connection with the preparation of any response. Identify the discovery request to which each name applies.

INTERROGATORY NO. 3

Please identify each policy of insurance issued by you to the Plaintiffs and for each policy set forth the type or nature of the policy; the effective date; the policy number; and the amendment number, if applicable.

INTERROGATORY NO. 4

If you contend that any of the policies identified in your answer to the foregoing interrogatory "lapsed" or that coverage otherwise terminated, for each such policy, please state: the date or dates upon which you claim that such policy "lapsed", was rescinded; was canceled; or otherwise ceased to be in effect and give the reason therefore.

INTERROGATORY NO. 5

Please state the name, address and telephone number of each person you believe may have discoverable knowledge of the facts and circumstances which form the basis of this lawsuit.

INTERROGATORY NO. 6

Please state the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all witnesses which you may call at the trial of this matter and state the subject matter of their testimony.

INTERROGATORY NO. 7

With respect to each person you will call or expect to call as an expert witness at the trial of this matter, please identify each person (including name, address, telephone number, and the field in which he is to be offered as an expert) and provide the following about each such witness:

- (a) the subject matter on which the expert is expected to testify;
- (b) the substance of the facts and opinions to which the expert is expected to testify; and
- (c) a summary of the grounds for each opinion.

INTERROGATORY NO. 8

Identify or describe the nature, custody and condition and location of any documents, writings or tangible things relevant to the subject matter of this suit known to you or to your

attorneys, whether same will be offered at trial or whether it is merely relevant to the subject matter in the pending action and may or may not be offered at trial.

INTERROGATORY NO. 9

Please identify each and every document you relied upon or to which you referred, in forming your responses to Plaintiffs' complaint or these discovery requests, and identify the person who currently has possession of each document identified.

INTERROGATORY NO. 10

Please state the name, address, telephone number and position occupied of any and all persons who have taken or obtained statements, questionnaires, declarations, applications or other documents from the Plaintiffs.

REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION

Plaintiffs, through counsel and pursuant to Rule 34 of the Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure, herewith propound the following requests to the Defendant to produce the following documents for inspection and copying at The Ramsey Law Firm, 21 North Florida Street, Mobile Alabama 36607, within the time prescribed by law.

Please note that pursuant to Mississippi Rule of Civil Procedure 34(b), any documents produced shall be as they are kept in the usual course of business or, alternatively, the responding party shall organize and label them to correspond with the category in the request that calls for their production.

The manner of inspection shall be personal inspection at the time, date and place designated herein, including the photographing and/or copying by or on behalf of the Plaintiffs of the documents and other tangible things hereinafter mentioned, not privileged.

You are hereby notified that all documents which you claim are privileged shall be identified as to the name of said document, custodian and place of repository of said document and the subject matter and/or the request herein to which the document is responsive.

Please make available for inspection, photocopying and/or reproduction the following:

REQUEST NO. 1

Produce copies of each and every policy which you identified in your answer to interrogatory number 3.

REQUEST NO. 2

Copies of all documents pertaining to insurance sold to Plaintiffs by this Defendant.

REQUEST NO. 3

Copies of all correspondence, agreements, and/or contracts between this Defendant, Life of Georgia and the Plaintiffs or other Defendant(s) herein.

REQUEST NO. 4

All records of communication to Plaintiffs explaining or discussing the insurance policy or policies issued by Life of Georgia or the charges they were required to pay as a result of purchasing insurance issued by Life of Georgia.

REQUEST NO. 5

Copies of all agreements or contracts entered into by this Defendant, Life of Georgia, which agreements concern or in any way pertain to the insurance policies sold to the Plaintiffs herein.

REQUEST NO. 6

A copy of the insurance file or file by any other name (including but not limited to any claims files) concerning the Plaintiffs to this action.

REQUEST NO. 7

All documents which relate to insurance issued by Life of Georgia to any of the Plaintiffs.

REQUEST NO. 8

Any and all insurance agreements or policies under which any person or entity carrying on an insurance business may be liable to satisfy part or all of the judgment which may be rendered in this action or to indemnify or reimburse for payments made to satisfy the judgment.

REQUEST NO. 9

Copies of any indemnity agreement and reinsurance agreement(s) between any of the parties to this case.

REQUEST NO. 10

Copies of any indemnity agreement and reinsurance agreement(s) between any party to this case and non-party which is relevant to the actions made the basis of this suit.

REQUEST NO. 11

Copies of any and all statements previously made by the Plaintiffs concerning the subject matter of this lawsuit, including any written statement signed or otherwise adopted or approved by any Plaintiffs hereto and any stenographic, mechanical, electrical or other type of recording or any transcription thereof made by any Plaintiffs and contemporaneously recorded.

REQUEST NO. 12

Any and all expert reports that were or will be relied upon in whole or in part by any testifying expert in this case.

A copy of each document concerning the events and happenings made the basis of this lawsuit and the persons involved, including but not limited to all documents concerning the sale of insurance to the Plaintiffs and the charges resulting therefrom.

REQUEST NO. 14

Any and all reports, papers, records, statistics, literature, or other documents upon which any of your expert witnesses will base his or her opinion.

REQUEST NO. 15

Any and all experts' reports which have been prepared in connection with this lawsuit or the actions giving rise to this lawsuit, if the expert is expected to or may testify in this cause as an expert.

REQUEST NO. 16

A copy of any investigation conducted by this answering defendant and/or its parent company in connection with insurance issued to policyholders that was not prepared in anticipation of litigation.

REQUEST NO. 17

Curriculum Vitae of all experts who may testify in this cause.

REQUEST NO. 18

All documents, recordings or other tangible things which you contend is in any way relevant to the events or happenings made the basis of this lawsuit and the persons involved.

REQUEST NO. 19

All documents referred to in your responses to any of the preceding Interrogatories.

Copies of minutes of all corporate meetings of this answering defendant, Life of Georgia, for the past (10) years, which contain information relative to the sale of insurance to Mississippi policyholders.

REQUEST NO. 21

Copies of all correspondence, communications (including memoranda of oral communications), statements, applications, declarations, or any other documents) taken or obtained from the Plaintiffs.

REQUEST NO. 22

Complete and accurate copies of each and every insurance policy, policy amendment, and policy endorsement ever issued by this answering defendant, Life of Georgia, to the Plaintiffs.

REQUEST NO. 23

Any and all reports from your computerized Policy Management System (by any other name) which pertain to the Plaintiffs or to any policies written to the Plaintiffs.

REQUEST NO. 24

Copies of the Mississippi Insurance Licenses of <u>all agents who sold insurance to the Plaintiffs</u> including, but not limited to the individual defendants herein.

REQUEST NO. 25

In the event any of the licenses produced in response to the previous request have ever been suspended or revoked, please produce documentation reflection the periods that such suspension or revocation was in effect.

All non-privileged documents not described herein, which are relative to the allegations contained in the Complaint.

REQUEST NO. 27

A detailed payment history/ record for every premium which has been paid by the Plaintiffs for any and all policies issued by Life of Georgia, including the dates upon which payments were received and the amount of payments received. This request includes complete premium receipt records (or records by any other name) for the Plaintiffs.

REQUEST NO. 28

Any and all advertising material, literature, documents or videotapes published or produced for the purpose of soliciting agents and/or prospective insureds.

REQUEST NO. 29

Produce the entire insurance file for the Plaintiffs (including but not limited to any claim files and any electronic data regarding the Plaintiffs).

REQUEST NO. 30

Produce complete Premium Receipt Books (PRBs), premium receipt records, or other document evidencing payment of premiums for the Plaintiffs.

REQUEST NO. 31

Produce documentation which was generated as a result of contact between the Plaintiffs and any of their agents with Life of Georgia.

Please produce a copy of any and all communications, statements, questionnaires, applications, declarations or any other such documentation taken or obtained from the Plaintiffs at any time.

REQUEST NO. 33

Produce the complete personnel files of Life of Georgia's agents (or former agents) WHO SOLD OR SERVICED POLICIES OF THE PLAINTIFFS, including but not limited to the personnel files of the individual defendants herein.

REQUEST NO. 34

Produce a copy of each document which was given or mailed to the Plaintiffs by Life of Georgia at any time.

REQUEST NO. 35

If any documentation was generated as a result of contact between Plaintiffs to this action and any agent of Life of Georgia (identified in your response to interrogatory number 1), please produce a copy of said documents.

REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS

REQUEST FOR ADMISSIONS NO. 1

Please admit that Plaintiffs are or were "insured" on policy or policies issued by Life of Georgia.

REQUEST FOR ADMISSIONS NO. 2

Please admit that Life of Georgia, an insurer, entered into a contractual relationship with the Plaintiffs.

REQUEST FOR ADMISSIONS NO. 3

Please admit that Life of Georgia sells insurance through the use of insurance agents who represent Life of Georgia for all purposes relating to the formation of the insurance contract.

REQUEST FOR ADMISSIONS NO. 4

Please admit that agents who call customers' in their homes to sell insurance products are required to be licensed agents.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

BY:

John A. Piazza, Counsel for Plaintiff

MS Bar #1/00333

OF COUNSEL:

C.E. Sorey, II. Ramsey Law Firm, P.C. 21 North Florida Street Mobile, AL 36607 (251) 479-5655

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing "Plaintiffs' First Set of Combined Interrogatories, Requests for Production of Documents, and Requests for Admissions" was served via U.S. mail postage prepaid along with the Summons and Complaint.

John A Piazza Counsel for Plaintiff

BILLIE A. AULD, ET AL.

Plaintiffs,

V5.

CIVIL ACTION NO: 04-KV SOOI-J

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ET AL.

Defendants.

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Paul Upton

1011 Anniston Avenue Gulfport, MS 39507-2742

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

THE COMPLAINT WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS
IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written response to the Complaint to John A. Piazza, the attorney for Plaintiffs, whose address is Ramsey Law Firm, P.C., 21 N. Florida Street, Mobile, Alabama 36607. Your response must be mailed or delivered within thirty (30) days from the date of delivery of this summons and complaint or a judgment by default will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint.

You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, the

2004.

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CIRCUIT CLERK OF ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

(SEAL)

BILLIE A. AUTOTET AL.

Plaintiffs.

VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO: 04-KV-0001-J

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ET AL.

Defendants.

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Paul Norrell

1583 S. Main Street

Greenville, MS 38701-7008

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

THE COMPLAINT WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS
IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written response to the Complaint to John A. Piazza, the attorney for Plaintiffs, whose address is Ramsey Law Firm, P.C., 21 N. Florida Street, Mobile, Alabama 36607. Your response must be mailed or delivered within thirty (30) days from the date of delivery of this summons and complaint or a judgment by default will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint.

You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, t

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CIRCUIT CLERK OF ADAMS

COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

(SEAL)

Βv

CIEDI

BILLIE A. AULD, ET AL.

Plaintiffs.

VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO: 04-KV 2001-J

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ET AL.

Defendants.

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO:

Walter Montgomery 4582 Hebron Road Lexington, MS 39095-9731

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

THE COMPLAINT WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS
IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written response to the Complaint to John A. Piazza, the attorney for Plaintiffs, whose address is Ramsey Law Firm, P.C., 21 N. Florida Street, Mobile, Alabama 36607. Your response must be mailed or delivered within thirty (30) days from the date of delivery of this summons and complaint or a judgment by default will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint.

You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, th

1, 2004.

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CIRCUIT CLERK OF ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

(SEAL)

BILLIE A. AULD, ET AL.

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CIVIL ACTION NO: 04-KV-JOOI-J

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ET AL.

Defendants.

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Randy Britt

2358 Blue Bird Drive

Greenville, MS 38701-8105

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

THE COMPLAINT WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS
IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written response to the Complaint to John A. Piazza, the attorney for Plaintiffs, whose address is Ramsey Law Firm, P.C., 21 N. Florida Street, Mobile, Alabama 36607. Your response must be mailed or delivered within thirty (30) days from the date of delivery of this summons and complaint or a judgment by default will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint.

You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this

2004

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CIRCUIT CLERK OF ADAMS

COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

(SEAL)

BILLIE A. AULD, ET AL.

Plaintiffs,

vs.

CIVIL ACTION NO: 04-KV.0001-J

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ET AL.

Defendants.

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: Life Insurance Company of Georgia c/o CT Corp System 1201 Peachtree Street, Northeast Atlanta, GA 30361

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT

THE COMPLAINT WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THIS SUMMONS IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written response to the Complaint to John A. Piazza, the attorney for Plaintiffs, whose address is Ramsey Law Firm, P.C., 21 N. Florida Street, Mobile, Alabama 36607. Your response must be mailed or delivered within thirty (30) days from the date of delivery of this summons and complaint or a judgment by default will be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in the complaint.

You must also file the original of your response with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time afterward.

Issued under my hand and the seal of said Court, this

رر 2004.

Jacki Metal DC.

CIRCUIT CLERK OH ADAM COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

(SEAL)

RAMSEY LAW FIRM, P.C.

Attorneys and Counselors at Law

Robert S. Ramsey + C. E. Sorey, II ♦ John A. Piazza ♦

+ Licensed in Alabama

♦ Licensed in Mississippi only

21 North Florida Street Mobile, Alabama 36607 (251) 479-5655 (800) 434-0141 Fax (251) 479-2488 E-mail:japiazza@ramseylawfirm.com

Wallace W. Ramsey (1887 - 1981) James B. Ramsey (1926 - 1980)

January 2, 2004

Adams County Circuit Clerk Post Office Box 1224 Natchez, MS 39121

RE: Billie A. Auld, et al. vs. Life Insurance Company of Georgia

Dear Clerk:

We are enclosing for the above referenced case the following: the Original Complaint with service copies; cover sheets, original Summons and Notice of Serving Discovery; and, our firm check totaling the court costs in the amount of \$95.00, which includes the jury demand. Please return the Summons and the service copies of the Complaint for certified mail service by us.

Additionally, we have enclosed file copies which we would appreciate you stamping and returning to our office in the enclosed self-addressed, postage prepaid envelope.

If you have any other questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-800-434-0141.

With kindest regards, I remain

RECEIVED AND FILED

Sincerely,

John A. Piazza

M.L. VINES CIRCUIT CLERK

Enclosures

RECEIVED

BILLIE A. AULD, ET AL.

JAN - 8 2004

PLAINTIFFS,

M.L. VINES CIRCUIT CLERK CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-KV-0001-J

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF

GEORGIA, ET AL.

DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF SERVICE

Plaintiff hereby gives notice to the Court that Defendant, Randy Britt was served on the 17th day of January, 2004 with a copy of the Summons and Complaint in the above entitled action, via U.S. Certified Mail, 2358 Blue Bird Drive, Greenville, Mississippi, 38701-8105; as shown by the attached copy of the return receipt.

Notice is further given that the undersigned will retain, as custodian the original of the aforementioned return receipt.

Respectfully submitted this the 27th day of January, 2004.

C.E. SOREY, II. (My Bar #7692

Attorney for Plaintiffs

Of Counsel:

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			4.4		
SENDER: COMPL	ETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE	THIS SECT	TON ON DEL	IVERY
item 4 if Restricts Print your name a so that we can re	1, 2, and 3. Also complete ad Delivery is desired. and address on the reverse furn the card to you. to the back of the mailpiece. space permits.	7	WOLLY by (Pales WIDY	But	☐ Ad ☐ Ad
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FEB-1 Case 5765cv-861246_0CBANARS 1566thHenf 1 CPMed 02/12/045P 445-3785109

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

BILLIE A. AULD, ET AL.

PLAINTIFFS.

VS.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-KV-0001-J

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DEFENDANTS.

GEORGIA, ET AL.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF

M.L. VILLES CIRCUIT CLERK

NOTICE OF SERVICE

Plaintiff hereby gives notice to the Court that Defendant, Life Insurance Company of Georgia was served on the 20th day of January, 2004 with a copy of the Summons and Complaint in the above entitled action, via U.S. Certified Mail, c/o CT Corporation System, 1201 Peachtree Street, Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30361; as shown by the attached copy of the return receipt.

Notice is further given that the undersigned will retain, as custodian the original of the aforementioned return receipt.

Respectfully submitted this the 27th day of January, 2004.

C.E. SOREY, II. (Ms. Bar #7692

Attorney for Plaintiff's

Of Counsel:

BILLIE A. AULD, ET AL.

PLAINTIFFS,

AND FILED

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CLYIL ACTION NO. 04-KV-0001-J

VS.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ET AL.

DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF SERVICE

Plaintiff hereby gives notice to the Court that Defendant, Walter Montgomery, was served on the 17th day of January, 2004 with a copy of the Summons and Complaint in the above entitled action, via U.S. Certified Mail, 4582 Hebron Road, Lexington, MS 39095-9731; as shown by the attached copy of the return receipt.

Notice is further given that the undersigned will retain, as custodian the original of the aforementioned return receipt.

Respectfully submitted this the 27th day of January, 2004.

C.E. SOREY, II. (Ms./Bar #7692)

Attorney for Plaintiffs

Of Counsel:

PLAINTIFFS, AND FILED

vs.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA, ET AL.

DEFENDANTS.

NOTICE OF SERVICE

Plaintiff hereby gives notice to the Court that Defendant, Paul Norrell, was served on the 17th day of January, 2004 with a copy of the Summons and Complaint in the above entitled action, via U.S. Certified Mail, 1583 South Main Street, Greenville, MS 38701-7008; as shown by the attached copy of the return receipt.

Notice is further given that the undersigned will retain, as custodian the original of the aforementioned return receipt.

Respectfully submitted this the 27th day of January, 2004.

C.E. SOREY, II. (Ms. Bar #7692)

Attorney for Plaintiffs

Of Counsel:

BILLIE A. AULD, et al.

PLAINTIFFS

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-KV-0001-J

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA; et al.

DEFENDANTS

NOTICE OF FILING OF NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446, Defendants Life Insurance Company of Georgia, Paul Norrell, Randy Britt, Walter Montgomery and Paul Upton hereby file with this Court a copy of the enclosed Notice of Removal and Statement of Facts and Authorities in Support of Removal (attached hereto as Exhibit "A," without exhibits), filed today in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi, Western Division. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446, this Court shall proceed no further in this action, unless and until the case is remanded.

Respectfully submitted, this the 13th day of February, 2004.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GEORGIA PAUL NORRELL, RANDY BRITT, WALTER MONTGOMERY and PAUL UPTON

Claux V. Active
One of Their Attorneys

OF COUNSEL:

Robert L. Gibbs (MB #4816)
Sheldon G. Alston (MB #9784)
Claire W. Ketner (MB #99708)
BRUNINI, GRANTHAM, GROWER & HEWES, PLLC
1400 Trustmark Building
248 East Capitol Street (39201)
Post Office Drawer 119
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0119
Telephone: (601) 948-3101
Facsimile: (601) 960-6902

Charles E. Griffin (MB #5015)
GRIFFIN & ASSOCIATES LAWYERS
125 So. Congress Street, Suite 1515 (39201)
Post Office Box 968
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0968
Telephone: (601) 354-0603
Facsimile: (601) 354-0604

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Claire W. Ketner, one of the attorneys for Defendants Life Insurance Company of Georgia, Paul Norrell, Randy Britt, Walter Montgomery and Paul Upton, do hereby certify that I have forwarded a true copy of the above and foregoing **Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal** via United States mail, postage prepaid, to the following:

John A. Piazza, Esq. C. E. Sorey, II, Esq. RAMSEY LAW FIRM, P.C. 21 N. Florida St. Mobile, AL 36607

SO CERTIFIED, this the 13th day of February, 2004.

CLAIRE W. KETNER

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Claire W. Ketner, one of the attorneys for Defendants Life Insurance Company of Georgia, Paul Norrell, Randy Britt, Walter Montgomery and Paul Upton, do hereby certify that I have forwarded a true copy of the above and foregoing **Notice of Removal and Statement of Facts and Authorities in Support of Removal** via United States mail, postage prepaid, to the following:

John A. Piazza, Esq. C. E. Sorey, II, Esq. RAMSEY LAW FIRM, P.C. 21 N. Florida St. Mobile, AL 36607

SO CERTIFIED, this the 13th day of February, 2004.

CLAIRE W. KETNER

%JS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

5-04CV 55Br Su

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS BILLIE A. AULD AND ALL PLAINTIFFS LISTED ON ATTACHED EXHIBIT "A" (see attached) (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff ADALS SOUTHERN FILED (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE										
		1 1 EFR.	LAND	INVOLVED.	•					
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Robert L. Gibbs (MB #4816); Sheidon G. Alsten (MB #9784), Claire W. Netner images of the state of the										
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintif (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant)										
U.S. Government Plaintiff				Citizen of This State DEF I DEF Incorporated or Principal Place 4 4 of Business In This State						
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citize in Item III)	enship of Parties	Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 5 of Business In Another State							
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 3 Foreign Nation	66					
IV. NATURE OF SUI		One Box Only) RTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES					
110 Insurance 120 Marine 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product	PERSONAL INJURY 362 Personal Injury	610 Agriculture 620 Other Food & Drug 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck 650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other LABOR	422 Appeal 28 USC 158 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights 830 Patent 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY	□ 4//0 State Reapportionment □ 4//0 Antitrust □ 4//0 Banks and Banking □ 4//0 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc. □ 4//0 Racketeer Influenced and □ Corrupt Organizations □ 8//0 Selective Service □ 8//0 Securities/Commodities/ □ Exchange □ 8//0 Customer Challenge □ 12 USC 34//0 □ 8//0 Agricultural Acts					
190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury	385 Property Damage Product Liability	710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations		892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Allocation Act					
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS 441 Voting	PRISONER PETITION 510 Motions to Vacate	730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act	865 RSI (405(g))	895 Freedom of Information Act					
210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure	441 Voting 442 Employment	Sentence Sentence	740 Railway Labor Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to					
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare 440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Othe 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition	790 Other Labor Litigation 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRSThird Party 26 USC 7609	Justice Justice 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes 890 Other Statutory Actions					
v. origin (PLAC	E AN "X" IN ONE BO	X ONLY)	Transf	erred from	Appeal to District					
	tate Court A	temanded from Appellate Court	4 Reinstated or ☐ 5 (specif Reopened	Litigation	ict 7 Judge from Magistrate Judgment					
	Do not cite jurisdiction B Court pursuant to	nal statutes unless diversity.) 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 (a		s federal question juri	sdiction, as Plaintiffs . § 1331 - jurisdiction.					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.I	S IS A CLASS ACTION P. 23	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint: Yes No					
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) (See instructions): IF ANY JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER										
DATE 02-13-04	00 10 04									
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		Clain &	7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7							
RECEIPT#	AMOUN	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG, JUD	GE					

#5065351

Billie A. Auld, et al. vs. Life Insurance Company of Georgia, et al.

List of Plaintiffs

1 Deborah F. Alla	aire
-------------------	------

- 2 Floree Anderson, by Dianne Anderson
- 3 Jane Maclin Andrews
- 4 Wesley L. Atterberry
- 5 Billie A. Auld
- 6 Lestine Avant
- 7 Alvin and Brenda Bacon
- 8 Vera Davis Ballard
- 9 Catherine Barnes, by Cassie Price
- 10 Marian Barnes
- 11 Annie L. Beasley
- Earnestine B. Bell
- Willie Mae Bennett
- 14 Marsha A. Bester
- 15 Marsha G. Bester
- 16 Preston Bester, Jr.
- 17 Preston Bester, Sr.
- 18 Lucille Black
- 19 Carl W. Blakely
- 20 Gerald Bland
- 21 Dow H. Bourland
- 22 Vernell Boykin
- 23 Jessie Breland
- 24 Roxie Breland
- 25 Lee H. Brooks
- 26 Sally Brooks
- 27 Hattie Broomfield
- 28 R. B. Broomfield
- 29 Andrew Brown
- 30 Elizabeth Brown
- 31 Herman Brown, Sr.

- Joe Love and Ida Bell Brown, by Herman Brown, Sr.
- 33 Trina Brown
- 34 Sidney K. Burch
- 35 Eldora Burkes, by Calvin Burkes
- 36 Irene Bush
- 37 Ellen E. Butler, by Minnie Stewart
- 38 Hope Eloise Duke Campbell
- 39 Susie Carmichael
- 40 Howard Chambers, Sr.
- 41 Joan Gulley Chambers
- 42 Rosemary Chandler
- 43 Jerome Chapman
- 44 Lula M. Coleman
- 45 Gloria S. Colston
- 46 Gregory L. Colston
- 47 Charles Conner, by Debra Dorsey
- 48 Cynthia Cowart
- 49 Sadie Dalcourt
- 50 Patricia Daniel
- 51 Linda Joyce Twillie Darby
- 52 Dewayne S. Davis
- 53 Diana M. Davis
- James Davis, by Carrie M. Haywood
- 55 Lauree Martin and Elton Davis
- Robert and Alfreda Davis, by Zemma Myles
- Versa Davis, by Bertha Sullivan
- Lonnie and Robert Dawson, by Helen Dawson
- Martha C. Denham
- 60 Estella Dennis
- 61 Joseph Alvin DeRogers
- 62 Evelyn J. Dozier
- 63 Ethel L. Durham
- 64 Pauline Durham
- 65 Estate of McLane Evers

- 66 Mattie Jenelle Ferguson
- 67 Sylvester Fleming
- 68 Althea Ford
- 69 Joan T. Ford
- 70 John Ford
- 71 Barbara Franklin
- 72 Inez Franklin, by Barbara Franklin
- 73 Mary Denice Franklin
- 74 Sarah George
- 75 James Geralds
- 76 Louise Graham
- 77 Marvin Earnest Gray
- 78 Michael Green, Sr.
- 79 Ronald Greene
- 80 Mary Hall
- 81 Florine and Robert Hand
- 82 Annie P. Hardaway
- 83 Christine Hardy
- Helen and Jesse Hare
- 85 Robert Lee Hare
- 86 Paul Hargrave
- 87 Leroy Harper (Eunice)
- 88 Geneva Harris
- 89 Thelma Harris
- 90 Phebia Haynes
- 91 Rhonnel Y. Hearn
- 92 Grenh Hefner
- Josephine and Charles Henry, by Charlene Henry
- 94 Denise Hibbler
- 95 Rosie Hibbler
- 96 Rosilean Hicks, by Lurline Green
- 97 Eloise Hollis, by Sammy Curry
- 98 Dora Hoover
- 99 Hillman Hosey, by Levell Hosey

- 100 R. Milford Hough, Jr.
- 101 Moller Hudson, by Vivian Hudson
- 102 Mary G. Hunt
- 103 Willie Joyce Hutson, Jr.
- 104 Emma Ivory
- 105 Doris Jackson
- 106 Mary Jackson
- 107 Catherine Jefferson
- 108 Lovie Johnson, by Kevin Johnson
- 109 Samuel Johnson
- 110 Inell Joiner
- 111 Gradie Lee Jones
- 112 Ida M. Jones
- 113 Jesse Jones
- 114 Joanette Davis Jones
- 115 Louella Jones
- 116 Rena Jones, by John H. White
- 117 Tommy J. Jones
- 118 Verlene Jones
- 119 Dorothy J. Jordan
- 120 Glory D. Jordan
- 121 May W. Williams-Joseph

Billie A. Auld, et al. vs. Life Insurance Company of Georgia, et al.

List of Defendants

- 1 Life Insurance Company of Georgia
- 2 Harvey Adcock
- F. Allegrezza
- 4 Edward C. Bland
- 5 L. Boone
- 6 M. R. Boone
- 7 L. Boone, Jr.
- 8 Timmy Borgognoni
- 9 Randy Britt
- 10 L. Brown
- 11 Janice Bulton
- 12 L. H. Buroi
- 13 Bobby Byrnes
- 14 Barbara Cooper
- 15 J. K. M. Craig
- 16 Paul R. Cutting
- 17 Henry Davis
- 18 Terry W. Davis
- 19 Clinton Dickerson
- 20 Hank Favaroth
- 21 John Felton
- Howard Foreman
- 23 Howard Fulgham
- 24 S. Garnard
- 25 Marvin Gibbs
- 26 James Gray
- 27 John Hand
- 28 John Harrington
- 29 Arnold Henderson
- 30 E. Jackson

- 31 Gregory Jackson
- 32 Shirley Jenrette
- 33 Bubba Johnson
- 34 Les King
- 35 Oliver King
- 36 Olevar S. King
- 37 Craig Kirby
- 38 Davis Labell
- 39 Gregg Lane
- 40 J. Mally
- 41 Ivy Maney
- 42 Mayo Mangum
- 43 Ivy Mauery
- 44 James Mays
- 45 Ralph G. Mays
- 46 O. W. McRae
- 47 Ivy Memiy
- 48 John G. Mimbs
- 49 Walter Montgomery
- 50 William Montgomery
- 51 Paul Norrell
- 52 Larry O'Conner
- 53 Lawrence M. Phillips
- 54 A. Prewitt
- 55 Cochran Price
- 56 Maxine Salley
- 57 Charles Smith
- 58 Clide Smith
- 59 Clyde W. Smith
- 60 Curtis Smith
- 61 Leslie Smith
- 62 Lisa Thompson
- 63 Paul Upton
- 64 Gilbert Walden

- 65 B. Walk
- 66 Harold Walley
- 67 Ben Waltman
- 68 James Watson
- 69 Paul Watson
- 70 Sam Whitake
- 71 Penny Womble